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House talks highlight tax losses from B&Bs, casino. **PAGE 2**
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DETAIL TINIAN

TINIAN, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands—Equipment Operator 2nd Class Scott Valente, deployed with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5's Detail Tinian, assists with the offload of civil engineering support equipment during Detail Tinian's embarkation to the island for future projects. NMCB-5 is deployed across the Indo-Pacific region conducting high-quality construction to support U.S. and partner nations to strengthen partnerships, deter aggression, and enable expeditionary logistics and naval power projection.

U.S. NAVY/LT. PATRICK DANIELE

AS CNMI ECONOMY PLUMMETS

'AN IMPENDING CRISIS'

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has reached out to President Donald J. Trump to notify him of the impending crisis that the CNMI is about to face, as a result of the dramatic reduction in tourist arrivals following the coronavirus outbreak.



Torres



Trump

In a letter to Trump yesterday, Torres informed the President of the near-complete reduction in the number of flights from South Korea, following the loss of the Chinese tourism market, as fear of the virus spreads throughout the region.

"In total, the loss of the two largest markets in the CNMI's sole industry should be considered as the unequivocal and

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Iakopo: Veterans safe from austerity

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Despite the austerity measures that will be implemented across the Commonwealth government due to the coronavirus outbreak and the lack of tourists visiting the CNMI, the benefits of the CNMI's veterans won't be affected.

Stanley T. Iakopo, execu-

See IAKOPO on **Page 4**

KagES students return to home campus

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Kagman Elementary School students are set to return to their home campus after over a year and will be the second school to return to full-day sessions.

KagES principal Ignacia T. Demapan informed the parents and guardians of its students in a letter yesterday that KagES will resume full-day sessions starting March 9 at

See STUDENTS on **Page 4**

WOMEN ACHIEVERS

March is International Women's Month. To mark this occasion, *Saipan Tribune* is publishing this week a series of stories called "Women of Excellence," culminating with a roundup this Friday,

There are many women achievers in the CNMI who deserve to be featured in this series but, unfortunately, we will be unable to feature them all due to the lack of space. What this series intends is to provide a glimpse, in honor of the role these women play in holding up half the sky, in moving the Commonwealth forward.

Today, we focus on two women leaders in our community: Beth Pliscou and Heidi Yelin. Read their stories on **PAGE 7**.

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IT&E has clarified that it is currently not performing any roadside construction on Saipan.

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ASIA
A recently dismissed security guard freed dozens of hostages and is subdued by police.

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LIFE & STYLE
Intense heat, poisonous gasses, molten lava—that's Nik Wallenda's latest tightrope walk.

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Local

House talks highlight tax losses from B&Bs, casino

An estimated $2 million in taxes are lost from unregistered informal lodging inns called "bed and breakfast" in the CNMI, according to Saipan Chamber of Commerce board member Alex Sablan during talks between the Chamber and House of Representatives members last Monday on Capital Hill.

With zero tourists from China entering the islands, the Chamber has proposed, as an interim, to do some "house cleaning" to make the CNMI more competitive, as well as to keep the economy fueled as much as possible, and the Chamber believes that should include taxing these informal B&Bs.

"We think that there are over 400 to 600 facilities in this Commonwealth that are not paying their fair share of taxes and are not competing on a fair level playing field," Sablan said.

In citing the drop in hotel occupancy taxes despite the tourism numbers holding steady, Sablan said that "there's an obvious scenario going on" where B&Bs are impacting the tax base. Implicit in the suggestion is for the government to investigate and look into this tax loss.

"… this is what we need to do in this timeline when we have time to go after this kind of stuff, and really determine how we close the tax holes and loopholes," Sablan added.

RELATED NEWS
Chamber, House seek solutions to weakened economy. **PAGE 9**

Tax amnesty talks

The Chamber also briefly touched on tax amnesty, with Sablan saying the group has always disagreed with the idea of having a tax amnesty.

"I think there's the ability for people to come in and negotiate with Department of Finance and Tax and Revenue to get a good payment plan in place, but to just do across-the-board tax amnesty…sends the wrong message to taxpaying people that are not tax absconders," he said. "When you get to the point of having to do tax amnesty, those are [for] people that are absconding on their responsibility as citizens of the Commonwealth…"

$33M tax collectible

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) reminded that the government has yet to go after the $33 million in corporate taxes that is allegedly owed by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

"Here we are, talking about tax amnesty, going after the bed-and-breakfasts, and ensuring these taxes are paid and other things when we are looking at so many millions of dollars that we never ever collected, and there's not even a pay schedule, $33 million in owed corporate income taxes by the casino that was never paid," Propst said.

This is on top of the $37 million the casino owes under its contractually obligated community benefit fund. IPI is set to pay the CNMI government $18.17 million in the business gross revenue tax they owed by the end of March. It is a settlement from the original $30 million, which translates to about a $12-million loss for the CNMI.

"We've been giving them carte blanche and a golden ticket to not paying taxes when they should be paying taxes, when small businesses across the Commonwealth are struggling to keep the doors open," Propst added.

The legislator stressed that there has to be a schedule and collection of payments. "It is something that we need to keep in mind when we move forward, because we're talking about $2-million loss in bed-and-breakfasts, and so many tens of millions of dollars that we have never to this day collected." ***(Iva Maurin)***

629 receive scholarship from SHEFA

As of Feb. 27, a total of 629 college students have received a total of $665,500 from the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance.

So far, a total of 1,344 students—556 freshmen, 320 sophomores, 228 juniors, 102 seniors, 110 masters, and 28 advance/doctorate/juris doctorate—applied for the grant for this spring semester at either the Northern Marianas College, online college, and off-island college.

Of the total, 242 are new applicants,1,026 are ongoing, 76 are returning, 837 are on-island, 388 are off-island, and 119 are enrolled online.

As for the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, there are 93 applicants who have applied for the grant but are still pending. A total of 82 students are new, five are ongoing, and six are returning. ***(Justine Nauta)***



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CHCC: More quarantine facilities being identified

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. is working on identifying more sites in the CNMI that could be used to quarantine individuals in case the CNMI is faced with a coronavirus, or COVID-19, outbreak.

In an interview with CHCC spokesperson Zoe Travis, she said that CHCC is currently in the process of identifying other facilities that would be used to house infected individuals in case the Commonwealth Health Center's quarantine capacity is exceeded. CHCC runs CHC.

"Our exact quarantine capacity for COVID-19 depends a lot on what other inpatients we have in the facility who may also need to be quarantined. I can say that, in addition to the hospital itself, we also can call in additional resources and are identifying facilities that could be used if our capacity here is exceeded," she said.

As of yesterday, Travis could not release the exact number of individuals that CHCC can quarantine in case of an outbreak.

The primary and secondary sites/facilities to quarantine COVID-19 positive individuals on Saipan in case of an outbreak are the CHC mobile/inflatable tents on Navy Hill and the Juvenile Detention Facility in Kagman.

As of March 2, there is still no confirmed presence of COVID-19 on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

In a separate statement from the CNMI government, it said that Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios continue to lead government efforts in screening passengers from affected countries and preventing the spread of the COVID-19 in the CNMI.

"The CNMI remains coronavirus-free, but we are strengthening our ongoing efforts to screen passengers from affected countries, most especially South Korea," said Torres.

Torres said the administration has been working closely with the White House in implementing additional measures to safeguard the Commonwealth.

"Last Friday, we issued Executive Order 2020-02, which continues our emergency protective measures for response, quarantine, and containment of the disease. Public health is our top priority, and we will continue to keep our residents safe," he said.

Torres joined governors from around the United States in a conference call early yesterday morning with Vice President Mike Pence and White House officials to discuss national efforts to monitor and contain the spread of coronavirus in the U.S.

President Trump has appointed Pence to lead the President's Coronavirus Task Force.



Gas prices continue to drop

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Gas prices in the Marianas continue its downward trend, much like everywhere else in the world due to the recent outbreak of the novel coronavirus or COVID-19.

At 10am yesterday, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. lowered gas prices by another 10 cents, a little over a month since the last rollback in February.

Mariana Acquisition Corp., which owns Shell Marianas, has yet to lower its gas prices but is expected to follow suit as they've done in the past, according to a source.

As of yesterday morning, Mobil reduced its prices from $4.039 per gallon of Extra fuel to $3.939 per gallon, while its Supreme fuel price went down from $4.489 a gallon to $4.389. Diesel fuel prices also saw a 10-cent decrease, from $4.419 per gallon to $4.4.319 per gallon.

The rollback in gas prices has been a worldwide trend following the outbreak of COVID-19. According to various media outlets, the uncertainty of China's economy, with the number of people sick, is contributing to the drop in gas prices since China is one of the world's largest importers of oil.

The downward trend is also attributed to the season as the demand for fuel is lower toward the summer as it is in the winter.

According to an individual who requested to remain anonymous, with people losing their jobs and working half the hours they used to as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, a decrease in gas prices is a small relief.

"I'll take what I can get at this time," the person said.



Gas prices continue to roll back with Mobil Oil Marianas lowering its prices by 10 cents yesterday morning. KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

CPA board approves resolution to float $40M bond

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors has approved a resolution to float a $40-million bond that will be used to finance the resurfacing of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport runway.

At a regular board meeting at the Port of Saipan's conference room last week, the directors approved the resolution that authorizes the issuance of bonds and the execution and approval of loans and indentures to the Bank of Guam.

The financing is needed for the corrective work under the Airport Runway Rehabilitation II Project and the refunding of the 1998 airport bonds.

CPA will issue bonds payable from certain gross revenues derived from the airport revenue in amounts sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds to finance the project.

CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said yesterday that, with their action, the resolution is now before the Commonwealth Development Authority for review and approval which involves an analysis of CPA's ability to service the debt, among other factors.

Given CPA's current state of finances, which has been significantly detrimentally impacted by the suspension of flights from the CNMI's Asian markets for tourists as a result of the ongoing global efforts to contain the coronavirus for an undetermined period, it is likely that this process will take considerably longer, King-Hinds said.

CPA has 16 projects for the Saipan International Airport that have a total cost of $121.2 million, including the $19-million runway resurfacing.

Last April CPA stated that the original contractor for this runway resurfacing project is now being sued due to poor workmanship and that plans and specification have been repackaged and are pending approval by the Federal Aviation Administration.

IPI hires Frink, Cachero as counsel in suit by 7 ex-workers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has hired former NMI Bar president Sean E. Frink as its counsel in the lawsuit filed by seven former workers against the company and its contractor and subcontractor over the alleged injuries they suffered during accidents at the worksite of IPI's resort/casino project in Garapan.

Frink and Catherine J. Cachero, of the Marianas Legal Strategy Group LLC, notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI Monday of their appearance as counsel for IPI in the case.

Frink and Cachero said their co-counsel in this case is Kelley Butcher, who has been actively representing IPI prior to their involvement in this matter. The lawyers said Butcher will continue to be involved in this case.

The plaintiffs—Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Quingchun Xu, and Xiyang Du—are suing IPI, MCC and MCC's subcontractor, Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC.

The plaintiffs, who are all Chinese nationals, are suing the defendants for alleged forced labor in violation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Re-authorization Act, forced labor in violation of the CNMI Anti-Trafficking Act, negligence, and liability for employees of subcontractor.

The workers alleged, among other things, that they were forced to work long hours for below minimum wage under extremely dangerous conditions at the casino-resort worksite.

The plaintiffs' counsels are Saipan lawyer Bruce Berline and New York-based attorney Aaron Halegua.

In its response to the lawsuit, IPI said any wage claims by the plaintiffs are barred because they voluntarily illegally entered the CNMI to work.

CRISIS

From Page 1

complete collapse of the foundations of our private sector on the islands. With the collapse of the drivers of private industry, government revenue and the services of government will soon struggle to remain operational," Torres said.

Attributing the current fragile state of the Commonwealth to a tumultuous past and federal regulations, one thing remains clear, Torres said: "the economy, and the government's ability to maintain public services, are deeply in trouble."

Torres said the CNMI is currently anticipating total government budget falling as low as $90 million.

"If the CNMI were to add its mandatory obligations to bond holders, the federally-administered pension fund, and the Public School System, the CNMI government is potentially left with less than $20 million to run a government for a population of 53,000 people," the governor said. "To add perspective, the recently amended budget for fiscal year 2020 provided the Executive Branch alone $36 million."

The limited funding that would remain from this contraction in the economy, according to Torres, would be used to pay for police officers and vehicles, as well as for the local matching share of the Medicaid and CHIP programs.

It will also be used to pay to support hospital needs, to maintain the Judiciary and Legislature, to pay utilities of government facilities, and to protect the wellbeing of the community and the environment.

The governor also informed the President of steps the CNMI is doing to address the situation, which include consolidating departments, reviewing government workforce needs, shifting government policy, and sheltering as much as possible the critical services needed for public safety.

"I cannot stress the existential concerns that have arisen as a result of the present outbreak to the CNMI. Due to tourism being our sole remaining industry, there is no community in the United States more affected by this global crisis than the CNMI," Torres added.

The governor also appealed to the President to designate a member of his staff that the CNMI can communicate consistently as the government tries to resolve the situation.

While recognizing that the "data does not present cause for much optimism," the governor assured the President that he will do all that he can to ensure the CNMI does not fail in its efforts to be productive members of the American community.

The CNMI, being close to the epicenter of the COVD-19 outbreak, remains at the forefront of the threat. To date, there has been no recorded case of the virus on the island.

STUDENTS

From Page 1

their home campus.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said it is "awesome" that KagES can finally return to full-day sessions and to their campus after over a year since Super Typhoon Yutu devasted the campus back in October 2018.

"We're really excited. The teachers have been excited and the students too," he said.

Ada added that the other schools that still remain on half-day and double sessions will follow suit soon and will return to full-day sessions this month.

"The other schools are near completion with some minor setbacks. Most, if not all, classrooms are fixed and ready. The [materials] needed in each classroom have arrived but, in light of the recent coronavirus outbreak, we're just waiting on that cargo to be cleared," he said.

Ada credits the opening of the KagES campus to members of the Facility and Development Management team, who worked tirelessly to get KagES back up and running.

"I would like pay tribute to Eric Magofna's team, Glenn Smith, [and] Rommel Mostales for their hard work in making this possible," he said.

Demapan said classes will begin promptly at 7:30am and will end at 2:40pm. The three-strike late pick up standard operating procedure still applies for all children who do not ride the bus.

Oleai Elementray School, San Vicente Elementary School, Francisco M. Sablan Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, and Kagman High School remain on half-day sessions.

Dandan Middle School, one of the schools that also sustained major damage and had to go into half-day session too, returned to full session schedule in the first week of December, according to a source. They were the first school to return to full-day sessions.

The KagES campus, which served as a shelter during Super Typhoon Yutu, experienced electrical issues after a power pole that burned out near the school prevented power from running through the facility.

IAKOPO

From Page 1

tive officer of the VAO, confirmed that, although the government and private sectors will be implementing austerity measures, that would not conflict with veterans' benefits.

In fact, Veterans Affairs representatives will be visiting the CNMI once a month to take care of veterans' needs, Iakopo said. In the past, VA representatives would only visit the CNMI four times a year and were limited to daytime appointments. This time, night time assistance will be available to the CNMI's veterans.

New ID required

At the same time, Iakopo encourages eligible veterans who have a "Veteran Health Identification Card" that was issued before Jan. 1, 2020, to fly to Guam to get a new card that would give them access to the Troop Store at the U.S. Army Reserve.

Getting the new ID card would resolve cases where veterans in the CNMI were being turned away from the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, despite having VHIC cards that state that they are "serviced connected," which is one of the requirements that is needed on the ID card, to enter the store.

According to Iakopo, even if the card isn't expired, if it is an old one and needs to be updated would result in them being turned away at the troop store.

Last Jan. 1, the CNMI OVA announced that the U.S. Department of Defense will be now offering a new Veterans Health Identification Card for eligible veterans that will allow access to the Military Commissary, Exchange, and Recreation facilities. The VHIC must display the veteran's eligibility statues which are Purple Heart, Former Prisoner of War, and/or Service Connected.

Iakopo noted that he has been working with the directors from Guam who deals with this certain issue to write a memorandum to say that these veterans are allowed to enter the Saipan troop store with their old ID card. Iakopo is hoping that AAFES Guam will give eligible veterans six months more to be able to access the store and get a new VHIC.

It has been a while since Saipan has had its own system to be able to give eligible veterans the ability to get their own card on island; however, Iakopo stated that they aren't ready for that because they don't have the proper setting or equipment on the island yet. He added that VA directors are currently working together to get that here, but there is no timeframe for when it will be available.

Mayor Atalig renews request for continuance of trial

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig has renewed his motion for continuance of the trial in his federal case after learning that the U.S. Attorney's Office offered the unindicted witnesses an informal immunity and not statutory immunity.

Statutory immunity enables a court to compel the testimony of a non-cooperating witness, according to Atalig's lawyer, David G. Banes, who said that, based on his legal research, he has not found any authority holding that informal immunity provides a basis for a court to, at the request of a person who is not a party to the informal immunity agreement, compel the testimony of a non-cooperating witness.

Banes said informal immunity is governed by ordinary contract principles, and may not offer exactly the same level of assurance as statutory immunity.

In addition, since informal immunity is governed by contract law, the unindicted witnesses can refuse to accept it, leaving Atalig with no remedy, he added.

The unindicted witnesses refer to Atalig's seven co-defendants in the Superior Court case. They are Vanessa Charfauros, Magdalena Mesngon, Dexter Apatang, Dean Manglona, Eusebio Manglona, Josepha Manglona, and Dennis Mendiola.

Atalig's original motion for continuance was heard Monday before U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, during which Banes informed Manglona that a continuance might not be necessary because the unindicted witnesses were expected to receive immunity, and if they refused to testify, could be compelled by the court.

Atalig subsequently filed a request to renew the motion for continuance after Monday's hearing.

In Atalig's request to renew motion for continuance, Banes said that, after Monday's hearing, he learned that the unindicted witnesses received a letter from the U.S. Attorney's Office offering them informal immunity. Banes said he was not given a copy of the letter and learned about it only when the lawyer for one of the unindicted witnesses informed him of his concerns about informal immunity.

When he told assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley about his concerns regarding inability to compel testimony based on informal immunity, O'Malley reportedly told him that statutory immunity requires the U.S. Department of Justice's approval and told him that he has to renew his motion then.

"Out of an abundance of caution, Mr. Atalig hereby renews his motion for continuance because the unindicted witnesses may still be unavailable," Banes said.

The Office of the Attorney General has agreed to grant "use immunity" to four of seven co-defendants of the mayor in the Superior Court case.

The four defendants are Dean Manglona, Eusebio Manglona, Josepha Manglona, and Dennis Mendiola. They have not resolved their cases.

Three others have already disposed of their cases by plea agreement with the OAG. They are Vanessa Charfauros, Magdalena Mesngon, and Dexter Apatang.

CNMI chief prosecutor John Bradley said "use immunity" refers to protection given the witness from having their testimony used against them.

In the federal court case, Efraim Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, are charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and theft, wire fraud, theft from program receiving federal funds, and false statement. The jury trial is currently set for Tuesday, March 10.

In the Superior Court case, the OAG charged Efraim Atalig and seven co-defendants with misconduct in public office, which is misdemeanor offense. The bench trial is currently set for March 20. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CPA sees decline in inbound cargo

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's records for inbound cargo shows a decrease in the months of September, November, and December last year.

Pete P. Reyes, who chairs the Commonwealth Ports Authority board's Seaport Facilities Committee, said the decline in the inbound cargo tonnage at the ports of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are the latest available numbers the committee has.

At the port of Saipan, tonnage by inbound cargo dropped 8% in November 2019 compared to the same month in fiscal year 2018.

Tonnage by outbound cargo, however, increased 243% last November compared to the same month in 2018.

At the port of Tinian, tonnage by inbound cargo decreased 27% last December compared to the same month in 2018. Tonnage by outbound cargo also decreased by 9% last December compared to the same month in 2018.

At the port of Rota, the tonnage by inbound cargo decreased at a very high 72% last September compared to the same month in 2018. Tonnage by outbound cargo also dropped 51% last September compared to the same month in 2018.

Reyes believes, though, that the coronavirus outbreak is affecting the CNMI airports more than it does the seaports. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



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Da'ok Academy to relocate to SSHS

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Board of Education has unanimously agreed to relocate the Da'ok Academy from its current site at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute in Lower Base to the Saipan Southern High School campus.

During a special board meeting last week, all five members of the board agreed to the relocation of Da'ok Academy to SSHS because the Koblerville campus is reportedly a better fit to house the proposed facility.

Board chair Janice Tenorio, vice chair Herman Atalig, Marylou Ada, Phillip Mendiola-long, and Andrew Orsini all voted yes to the motion to relocate the campus.

According to Da'ok Academy principal Jonathan Aguon, he and his team decided on the SSHS campus because of the campus' size, compared Marianas High School, where it used to be before it was destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018.

"…[The] Saipan Southern High School campus [is] large enough to accommodate the school. The other place behind MHS was deemed to be insufficient for the size of the building," he said.

The proposed facility includes a total of five classrooms for all five Da'ok Academy teachers, two office spaces, and an assembly area that will double as a cafeteria.

Aguon added that relocating the campus to SSHS instead of MHS would provide Da'ok Academy with field space that they never had.

"[Relocating] also provides us field space that we currently do not have so that's the reason why we identified this site," he said.

Ultimately, Aguon said, relocating to SHSS would be better for the school's students in the long run since the NMTI, which works in partnership with the academy, is also relocating to the south.

"…NMTI is looking toward relocating to the south and Da'ok Academy and NMTI have a strong partnership in terms of getting our students into the trades pathways," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the Federal Emergency Management Agency allocated $1.5 million to rebuild the Da'ok Academy.

MHS was the original site for the new project.



TEAM CENSUS
The CNMI Census has officially started "the count" following the launch of the 2020 Census Enumeration Phase last March 1 on Tinian. Photo shows Team Census on Tinian. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

4 candidates for Dem caucus on March 14

On Monday, former South Bend, Indiana mayor Pete Buttigieg, and just yesterday, former Minnesota senator Amy Klobuchar ended their presidential campaigns, with both endorsing former vice president Joe Biden. "That narrows the race just as it should be, and, at the end of the day, we should all support whomever the nominee will be. We want to see all Democrats unite with several goals to achieve but mainly to defeat Donald Trump," said NMI Democratic Party vice chair Danny Quitugua.

Former presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke from El Paso, Texas, also endorsed Biden and took the stage to support him at his rally in Texas.

With Super Tuesday just about to begin, "I'm sure we can expect to see several endorsements for the other candidates too from all over the country," said Quitugua.

As of March 3, the remaining four Democratic presidential candidates—Biden, Mike Bloomberg, Bernie Sanders, and Elizabeth Warren—qualify for the NMI Presidential Caucus ballot.

"Who will be the two nominees and or possible last one standing, we will have to wait and see," said NMI Democrat Shawna JP Indalecio. "I am a huge supporter of Mayor Pete Buttigieg and even worked to collect signatures for his qualifying petition that got his name on the NMI ballot. Although I'm a huge fan, Joe Biden's my man and I was very happy to see Mayor Pete's endorsement."

The March 14 caucus will be the first step in the CNMI's participation in this process. At the caucus, Democrats will elect delegates to attend the National Convention according to presidential preference group. The caucus will be held on Saipan with simultaneous sub-caucuses to be held on Tinian and Rota, with locations and times to be announced later this week. All persons interested to become delegates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee Wisconsin, pledged to any of the presidential candidates should visit www.nmidems.org to receive a delegate candidacy form and submit their candidacy on or before March 8, 2020. ***(PR)***

Dems challenge GOP to debate on PSS funding, CNMI economy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Democratic Party of the Northern Marianas has invited the NMI Republican Party to a public debate on several issues, including the state of the CNMI economy and funding for the Public School System.

Democratic Party of the NMI chair Nola Kileleman Hix told *Saipan Tribune* last Thursday that they hand-delivered their letter of invitation for the debate last Feb. 3 to NMI Republican Party president James Ada, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

Hix said their letters were signed and received but they have yet to hear a response.

In the letter, it said that the people of the Commonwealth would be honored and well-served to hear each party categorically state their positions on fundamental issues that directly impact the community's lives and that of their children.

Other issues that the Democratic Party wants to discuss at the public debate are Public Law 5-11, the Government Ethics Code; public service, health and safety; CNMI workforce, U.S. Public Law 110-229; and what the people of Commonwealth deserve from their elected officials and political party leadership.

Hix suggested scheduling the debate last Feb. 19 in celebration of President's Day, or March 23, Covenant Day, and can be sponsored by any high school student body (private or public), or the student leadership at the Northern Marianas College.

"If attendance fees are to be imposed, proceeds collected shall benefit the Scholarship Office and the Medical Referral Program," Hix said.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-CDA-060
SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 16, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.
"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLE (SUV) FOR THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CDA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

House for Sale
(Tinian)
Concrete house
1000 sq. meter lot
Located in Marpo Valley
Contact: Barbara Lee
(Saipan)
Cell: 287-7885



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp
Eli D. Cabrera, Administrator
Janice E. Castro, Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE
From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: March 4, 2020

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the Department of the Navy regarding the proposed temporary construction of a Seabee expeditionary camp of approximately 5.5 acres on Tinian for training, humanitarian projects, and a variety of infrastructure.

For more information about the project, please proceed to the following links:
https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/CZMA-Letter-for-Temp-Seabee-Camp-Feb-27-2020.pdf &
https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/Enc-1-Seabee-Expeditionary-Camp-Site-Location.pdf

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally-approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on March 4, 2020 and ending on March 19, 2020. We look forward to your input.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: DPW20-RFP-005
SUBMISSION DATE: April 8, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"CNMI Government Long Range Twenty-Year Highway Master Plan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A Mandatory PRE-PROPOSAL WILL BE HELD ON **March 17, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM.

QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS March 26, 2020**. THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARGARITA B. SEMAN, Deceased.) Civil Action No. 09-0273) Civil Action No. 10-0348) NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR DECREE OF FINAL DISTRIBUTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Petition for Decree of Final Distribution in the aboveentitled matter will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the day of March 12, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at the Supreme Court courtroom, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this day of 28th day of February, 2020.

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

/s/ Judge Camacho, Joseph Norita



'Everyone needs a second chance'

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Shortly after moving to Saipan in 2012, Beth Pliscou realized that, as much as she loves the islands, she could not be at peace unless she did something to help the homeless, injured, and deceased animals that she sees every day.

That impetus led to the creation of non-profit group Saipan Cares for Animals and, for the fortunate ones that have been found, healed, and rescued, Pliscou gave these dogs and cats a second chance at life.

"Saipan Cares for Animals is a dedicated group of volunteers whose mission is to improve the life of every animal on Saipan through sterilization, medication, and socialization. We do this by helping the animals directly and offering the community low-cost pet care services," Pliscou said.

"The overpopulation of dogs and cats on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota is a huge but fixable problem. This can only be accomplished by spay/neuter. Killing them one by one, which is Saipan's history, clearly doesn't work. I'm motivated to do the work that I do and lower this overpopulation problem every time I see an animal suffering, which is every day," Pliscou added.

People can actually get in touch with Pliscou anytime of the day for quick advice or emergency situations pertaining to dogs or cats. She drives a 4x4 car that is full of medical supplies and she would do house calls or hit the brakes when she spots an injured animal while driving around.

"My life revolves around SCA. …Saipan Cares for Animals is run by strong, loving, and fearless women. I could never have accomplished what we have in the past four years alone without my SCA partner, Yumi Brundidge, who keeps everything running beautifully," she said.

"I depend on her and she does not fail me. SCA would not be where it is now without her and I like to think that Yumi and I together are superwomen," she added.

SCA currently houses 150 dogs and cats. When you visit SCA, every animal there are lively and in good health. "I have just one big goal right now and that is to get a grant. It is a daily struggle to purchase enough food and medication for our rescue animals," Pliscou said

"I don't want to raise our prices for the community clinic but quite often we do not have the funds to purchase medicine that our clients need. I would also like to pay our staff what they are deserving and I am hopeful that a grant will solve these problems," Pliscou added.

She pointed out that it is a proven fact that pets help their owners live a healthier life, both emotionally and physically. "I want people to leave our clinic knowing how they can care for their pet and, in return, their healthy, devoted pet will care for them."

"I hope after visiting SCA rescue/clinic, people will feel empathy for and gain knowledge that will help the suffering homeless dogs and cats. I believe it is very important to help those that cannot help themselves, both as an individual and as a community," she added.

'It's a tough job but someone's gotta do it'

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Working to ensure a supply of water on Saipan that is potable and clean is a tough job but Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Laboratory manager Heidi Yelin believes that someone has to do it and she has been doing it for 15 years now.

It takes attention to details, a strong sense of ethics, plus tons of patience. According to her, these are the things that make this job work.

"So much of the laboratory work requires small details and advance preparations that can impact results. We have to follow methods, not just because it's required but it's the right and ethical way to work. The small incremental improvements build over time into major accomplishments," she said.

"Before working at CUC, I had no idea how much work is required by many people in the field, in offices, or the laboratory to get chlorinated water into a house. I knew even less about wastewater so I spent several months learning how to collect samples, perform all the methods, and began to understand how a water distribution system works," she added.

Coordinating all CUC water and wastewater compliance monitoring activities as well as administrative and budgeting functions for laboratory operations keeps Yelin on her toes. "Part of the responsibility is reporting all monitoring results of Safe Drinking Water Act samples for CUC's Public Water Systems on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, as well as from the two U.S. Environmental Protection Agency permitted wastewater treatment plants," she said.



Part of the challenge is that there are so many moving parts to keep track of. CUC has more than 120 wells and multiple water storage tanks on Saipan, one well on Tinian, and one on Rota, with all samples collected and tested for various compounds at different frequencies.

That means Yelin has to schedule the collection of samples to ensure they are analyzed by CUC Laboratory staff or shipped off-island for analysis within the required time. She then compiles the test results and prepare the annual Water Quality Reports for CUC customers, with a separate report for each island.

Trusting the process has been effective for Yelin and explains how the community is assured that there is safe and clean drinking water every second of every day. "I ensure that all the staff follow all the CUC Laboratory standard operating procedures for collecting, receiving, and testing samples. …This helps maintain the CUC Laboratory and CNMI Bureau of Environment and Coastal Quality certification for analysis of drinking water samples for total coliform and E. coli," she said.

In her 15 years of working at the CUC Laboratory, Yelin said the Saipan water system has made huge improvements. "There was much to learn and I continue to learn every day which keeps life and the job interesting. It's gratifying to share what I've learned about water and wastewater with others, customers, friends and especially students," she added.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman schools set PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman Unified Schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at 5:30pm in the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Child care will be provided. Call any of the three schools at 237.3150 (KAGE), 237.3165 (COVMS), or 237.3196 (KHS) if you have any questions or concerns. ***(PR)***

Rip currents until Friday

The high risk of rip currents is extended through Friday evening.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a trade-wind swell will continue to produce surf large enough along east facing reefs to maintain strong and frequent rip currents.

Along east facing reefs, surf of 7 to 10 feet will maintain a high risk of rip currents through at least Friday night. Decreasing surf later in the week may allow the risk of rip currents to fall to moderate by the weekend.

The public is advised that strong rip currents will be life threatening along east facing reefs. If you become caught in a rip current remain calm. Swim out of a rip current by swimming parallel to shore then back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly. ***(PR)***

Ukulele class at JKPL

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library registration for Beginner and Intermediate Ukulele Class is ongoing. This is open to children ages 8 years or older and adults. The total cost for eight class sessions is $50. Ukulele classes are held at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in partnership with ukulele instructor Larry Lee and children. Session is set to begin on March 6, 2020. Ukulele class is every Friday from 4:30pm to 5:30pm.

The JKPL ukulele class is based on "first come, first paid." Students must provide their own ukuleles and a folder to hold music sheets (plastic sheet protectors and a three-ring binder are recommended). Parents/guardians must sign a liability waiver form on behalf of their participating children and must adhere to public library policies and procedures. For questions regarding ukulele class, call Celina Foreman or Caitlyn Crisostomo at 235-7315/7322 during regular library hours. Class dates are subject to change, unless otherwise specified. ***(PR)***



COOKIE SALE JUSTINE NAUTA

Erin Camacho, left, troop leader for the Girl Scout Daisies, poses with the Northern Mariana Islands Girl Scouts at the cookie sale booth at the Joeten Superstore in Susupe last Feb. 22. The Girl Scouts successfully sold 3,000 boxes of cookies, with only a few cases left, at their cookie sale throughout the month of February.

Guam issues more tax refunds

HAGATNA, Guam—The Department of Revenue & Taxation has processed and the Department of Administration will mail 138 tax refund checks this week. The checks total approximately $541,820.05, including refunds garnished to repay government debts for error-free returns filed on or before September 07, 2019. For inquiries, contact the Income Tax Branch of the Department of Revenue & Taxation at (671) 635-1809 or Edward Birn, Department of Administration, at (671) 475-1250. ***(PR)***

Free Guam workshop on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free workshops to the public for March 2020. The workshops run from 9am to 10am at the University of Guam in the Jesus and Eugenia Leon GuerreroBusiness and Public Admin Building, Room 149 (unless otherwise specified):

■ March 5: Marketing to the federal government – Are you ready to sell to the government? The government buys products and services differently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company on "the list."

■ March 12: Responding to Requests for Proposals (RFPs)–The Guam PTAC will walk participants through the common sections and clauses of an RFP as well as provide tips on developing a proposal in response to an RFP.

■ March 19: Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment – Do you have a DOD contract and need to get paid? The Guam PTAC will explain DOD invoicing procedures using the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment system.

■ March 26: – Cybersecurity: Federal Contractor Responsibilities – Cybersecurity is a national security issue. We will discuss what Federal contractors can do to make sure they are complying with DOD requirements to protect Controlled Unclassified Information as well as provide updates on the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification.

For project management professionals, Guam PTAC workshops may count toward your annual Professional Development Unit goals!

Register at http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php, or call/email Therese at 735-2552/admin@guamptac.com. Walk-ins are welcome. ***(PR)***

Lane closure for Triple J Color Run

Triple J announced yesterday that the southbound lane along Beach Road will be closed on Saturday, March 7, from 4am to 8am for the Triple J 5K Saipan Bubble Color Run. The closure is necessary for the runners' safety. The start point of the lane closure is Garapan Farmer's Market proceeding south 2.5 kilometers past the Quartermaster intersection to the Blue Beach House Hotel. ***(PR)***

NMHC offers loan deferment assistance

Due to the impending austerity measures and the anticipated economic hardships as a result of the decline in the tourism industry as affected by the suspension of visitor arrivals from China and reduced flights from Korea, most, if not all Northern Marianas Housing Corp. clients will somehow be affected.

Therefore, NMHC will place a blanket deferment assistance of all of its loans for a period of three months, which will begin March 1, 2020, and will end on May 31, 2020. Interest shall not accrue during the three-month period. Beginning June 1, 2020, all loans will be reinstated to their regular monthly payments and an additional three months will be added on to the loan maturity.

If you do not wish to avail of this assistance, you must provide NMHC an official cancelation notice of the deferment assistance being offered.

Should you have any further questions, contact the Mortgage & Credit Division at telephone numbers 234-6866/9447/7689/7670. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 04, 1999

DLNR releases hawksbill turtle

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources has released a hawksbill turtle which was caught by a fisherman last week. According to Marian Concepcion, information officer, the turtle was brought to Niko Hotel's aquarium first to allow it to recover because its right flipper and abdomen were wounded. Concepcion said it is illegal to catch or cook the hawksbill and green sea turtles which are considered endangered under federal law. Conservation officers are constantly watching the turtle's nesting areas on the island.

PR plan is 'urgent'

An official of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday urged members to decide infavor of a request to join a nonprofit organization recently established to pursue the immediate hiring of a public relations firm that will defend the CNMI amid relentless attacks abroad which may bring irreparable damage to its image in the international community. Emphasizing the urgency of engaging the services of a PR firm, David Wiseman, chairman of the government relations committee, said this will counter the bad publicity brought about by the filing of a $1 billion lawsuit in California and Saipan. Garment factory workers who filed the case against manufacturers and buyers alleged rampant labor abuses here which led to the negative media publicity describing the CNMI as a slave island.

March 04, 2005

Hyatt offers parents their own spring break

As the ides of March approach, so too does the time that the schools of the CNMI close their doors in lieu of education to grant the children a pre-summer vacation. While the absence from the classroom may not be a cause for concern for the kids, some parents might not have an adequate plan to ensure the proper care of their young ones. Enter the Spring Break at Camp Hyatt. This year for Spring Break, Camp at the Hyatt is offering parents a solution by offering two weeks to accommodate the vacation schedules of the Saipan's schools. Beginning on Monday, March 21, through Friday, March 25, parents will be able to drop off their children at the Hyatt Regency Saipan at 9am and pick them up later that day at 3pm.

Worker sent home for missing transfer deadline

The Department of Labor ordered a nonresident worker to depart the Commonwealth after he missed the deadline to transfer to a new employer by almost a month. Worker Wenxie Liu was given 20 days to leave the CNMI. His name would be forwarded to the Division of Immigration for possible deportation proceedings if he fails to leave within the given period. Labor records show that Wenxie Liu's former labor permit as commercial cleaner for Global Enterprises Inc., doing business as Diamond Ice and Water, had expired on Sept. 13, 2004.

March 04, 2006

Tinian Shipping cites $33M loss

TINIAN—Tinian Shipping & Transportation Inc. said it incurred losses of more than $33 million over 10 years of operations. "You may like to know that TSTI has suffered losses of more than $33 million over the past 10 years," said TSTI chair Michael Kwan in a recent letter to Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Lee Cabrera. Despite this, Kwan said that "TSTI will continue to operate the ferry services." In return, TSTI is asking the CPA board of directors to waive its lease rentals or at least peg it at a minimal rate for 40 years.

GTC school rules recycling contest

Twenty-three public and private schools gathered last Wednesday at the Basula Produkto office in Tanapag to finally receive their cash rewards from the 2005 America Recycles Day trash collection competition last November. The annual environmental competition spearheaded by the Department of Public Works Solid Waste Management Division was held in collaboration with private company Basula Produkto. The schools had to collect recyclable materials and wastes in their schools from October to November last year, to be converted into cash. Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School ruled over the other schools with a total collection of $370.55. Kagman Elementary School followed with the most number of trash collected, with $312.01 cash equivalent. San Vicente Elementary School ranked third, with a total of $257.70.

Chamber, House seek solutions to weakened economy

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Representatives of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce went up Capital Hill on Monday to meet with members of the House of Representatives to talk about coronavirus outbreak's devastating effect on the CNMI economy, as well as possible solutions.

The primary aim is to see what could be collectively done by businesses, the private sector, and the government to help keep the islands' economy afloat in the middle of the virus outbreak.

"This is a CNMI issue," said Chamber president Velma M. PPalacios. "Some people think it's only a government issue where the government is going on austerity. However, it is really affecting everybody [and] affecting all the businesses because we are dependent on tourism as our only industry."

Right now, hotels are experiencing their lowest occupancy, Palacios said, with some hotels even at single digits. Many have also expressed concerns over flight cancellations and uncertainties in terms of the shipment of goods to the CNMI.

"We have our airlines with all these flight cancellations. First, it was just China, now Korea and Japan. That's also going to affect our numbers again," she said.

Palacios emphasized that it is not just the hotels and airlines that are affected, but also every other business in the CNMI, such as stores and restaurants. "They're all trying to cut costs and see what they can do throughout this period of economic crisis, and a lot of businesses have already started reducing hours of their employees. It's not only the government, it's everybody that's in this community that's affected."

Laying out all these concerns, Chamber board member Alex Sablan said the intent is not to scare but to focus on what everyone has to do as a Commonwealth to stave off other impacts that are coming.

Possible solutions laid out included the fast-tracking of Federal Emergency Management Agency rebuilding projects and reimbursements, the relaxation of the stringent requirements on using capital improvement project funding, and on the restriction on the use of federal funds, and even micro-lending using Marianas Public Land Trust funds.

"Keeping the small mom-and-pop operations for the foreseeable two- to three- or four-month timeline [and] giving them $25,000 to $35,000 unsecured loans would be very helpful to keep the doors open and keeping payroll at least some semblance of people on the ground going," Sablan said. "We want to look at everything we can get from a local consumption standpoint to keep this Commonwealth economy fueled as much as possible."

The Chamber was set to meet with the Office of the Governor yesterday to continue their series of dialogues with government officials, to help save the CNMI economy.

Saipan Chamber meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its monthly general membership meeting today, March 4, at the Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The meeting's guest speakers are Division of Customs director Jose C. Mafnas, who will speak about the challenges his division has been experiencing at Customs and how a proposed measure, House Bill 21-104 SD1, works to alleviate those challenges; and Gloria Cavanagh, president of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, who will be providing updates on hotel room occupancy, measures hotels are taking to stay afloat, and the overall state of the CNMI tourism industry due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Lunch will be served at 11:30am and the meeting will begin promptly at noon. The luncheon fee is $25 for Chamber members and $35 for non-members.

RSVP online at https://business.saipanchamber.com/events/calendar. To reserve or for six or more seats, contact the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or email coordinator2@saipanchamber.com before 10am Wednesday. ***(PR)***

IT&E not doing construction work

IT&E has clarified that it is currently not performing any roadside construction, in response to people asking about roadside excavations being done in parts of Saipan.

In a statement Monday, IT&E said it has received inquiries about ongoing roadside construction projects and denied having any such project, to eliminate any confusion.

If you have any questions or concerns about ongoing construction in your area, IT&E urged the public to contact the Department of Public Works.

It stressed, though, that the community's safety is a top priority. "IT&E advises all motorists to take extra care while driving past any roadside construction and to be mindful of any signage and personnel," it said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***



IT&E has clarified that it is currently not performing any roadside construction, in response to people asking about roadside excavations being done in parts of Saipan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-010

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-20-010, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 6, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. *An electronic copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.*

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. The Bid bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 21, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Purchasing Technician via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org, Joseph Crisostomo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email joseph.crisostomo@cucgov.org and Alfred Palattao, CUC Power Division, Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-012

SR-2 SEWER LIFT STATION REHABILITATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the SR-2 Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of construction of a new sewer lift station to replace the existing SR-2 sewer lift station; installation of new gravity sewer mains, manhole, force main from the new lift station to the nearest existing sewer force main, retaining wall, guard rail, installation of Owner-Furnished Contractor-Installed (OFCI) submersible duplex pump and controller; construction of a new generator building and appurtenances; demolition of the entire existing generator buildings, accessories, appurtenances and existing minor structures. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 20, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-20-012, SR-2 Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) March 10, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 24, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water & Wastewater Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

The best defense against coronavirus is calm, fact-based leadership free of partisan politics

It is challenging for the average American to fully comprehend the implications of a pandemic, a virus that jumps across borders and infects large numbers of people. While Ebola got headlines in 2014, only one person died in the United States—a Liberian citizen who had been visiting family in Dallas—while three others who had provided care here or abroad were hospitalized.

That draws our attention to 2009, when a novel strain of the H1N1 virus, commonly referred to as "swine flu," challenged health care professionals. This unique strain, a combination of viruses from pigs, birds and humans, resulted in an estimated 60.8 million cases, 274,304 hospitalizations and 12,469 deaths in the United States in the year from April 2009 to April 2010, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

By contrast, as of late Thursday, health professionals have identified 60 confirmed coronavirus cases in the United States, a tiny fraction of the 82,550 confirmed cases globally, according to real-time data compiled by Johns Hopkins.

But as the World Health Organization warns, "no country should assume it won't get cases (since) this virus does not respect borders." The biggest concern, say WHO officials, is the spread of the virus outside China, where the rate of new cases seems to have slowed.

Brazil, Georgia, Greece, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan and Romania last week reported their first coronavirus cases. Also last week, U.S. health officials confirmed the first possible community transmission of the coronavirus in this country, a troubling sign since the California patient didn't appear to have a travel history in a region where the virus is prevalent or exposure to another patient with the virus, according to the CDC.

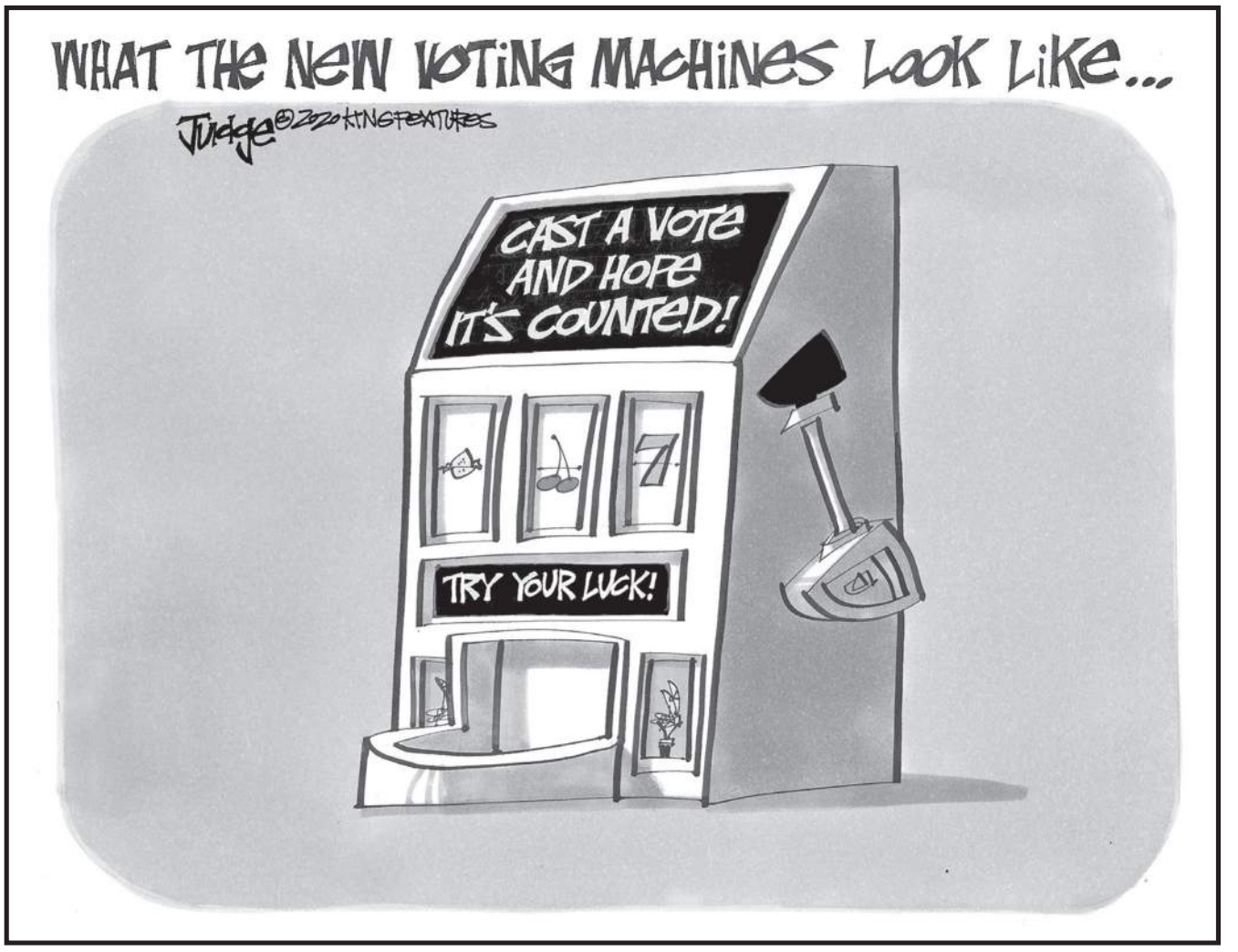
This is all the more reason for the United States to have a comprehensive strategy and a reliable communications network that keeps local and federal health officials pulling in the same direction and communicating the same message to the public.

Public health officials have made clear that the coronavirus is highly communicable and has the potential to disrupt global economies. At a news conference Wednesday, CDC officials cautioned that the "trajectory" for the coronavirus in the U.S. remains "very uncertain," and urged businesses and schools need to look into "pandemic preparedness plans."

President Donald Trump has a major responsibility in the weeks ahead. By virtue of his social media presence, the president has a massive megaphone and must stay on message with public health professionals about the extent of the challenges posed by the coronavirus on U.S. soil. He must not overshadow or muddle the messages of public health professionals.

Yet, as he named Vice President Mike Pence to oversee

See CORONAVIRUS on Next Page



Moroccan orphan finds the American dream is also accessible

By ITTO OUTINI
Chicago Tribune



Itto Outini is a journalist living in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Penniless and sightless, I arrived in the United States from Morocco more than two years ago determined to succeed, though the unknown felt overwhelming. I had no idea how I would navigate a new country, let alone technology that I had never had access to back home.

To dream of a better life had always seemed impossible. An orphan in a small, isolated village in the Middle Atlas mountains, I worked for my keep with relatives, a poor family, and could not attend school.

I had steadily been losing sight in one eye when one of those relatives beat and stabbed me in my other eye and I was abandoned at a hospital. I never saw my relatives again. I was 17 years old and totally blind.

With help from others amid years of homelessness, I made my way. I learned how to use Braille in just one day, and finished my education in a school for the blind in half the normal time. I finished college in three years, the normal pace in Morocco.

Still, my world was very small.

The only way for me to learn was usually verbal communication, and my exams were performed with the help of a sighted person through Braille or oral assignments. I needed friends and classmates to read from the internet for me since I could not afford screen-reading technology.

I had heard that a wonderful digital world existed, but without a screen reader, smartphone, iPad or tablet, it seemed like a fantasy. Braille books, my cane and my friends were the only way I could find my way.

I passed my TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) exam and boarded a plane bound for the University of Arkansas and a graduate degree in journalism, thanks to a Fulbright scholarship.

But when I arrived in the U.S., I did not know how to use a cellphone.

When I reached Fayetteville, Ark., I did not know the voice of my new host father, who was picking me up at the airport. But an accessibility helper at the airport assisted me. Other than that, I was lost until my host father bought me an iPhone at an expense that would have fed me and covered five months of rent in Morocco.

I was embarrassed to tell him that I didn't know how to use it. He was so kind to learn about digital tools for the blind and explained the accessibility shortcut to the iPhone's screen reader. Thus, I met Siri, my new eyes, and I began to explore my neighborhood, and the world. So, too, the VoiceOver screen reader never tired, never became impatient, nor ignored my requests.

Then came a computer with a screen reader, but at first I didn't even know how to turn it on. I touched the keyboard, and it meant nothing. It felt like a bunch of useless bumps. After failing to use the first computer, my host father did more research and provided me with more machines—a talking computer, an iPad, Braille display and several talking devices, as well as a Braille keyboard. Now I could use the internet for my classes.

I had to quickly learn how to use a computer keyboard to perform my assignments. I thought I would never make it through grad school, never know my classmates or know how my professors viewed my struggles with the technology.

The people of Fayetteville soon began volunteering to read my texts out loud while I rushed to learn this new digital world. I learned how to do the basics and was thrilled after two months that I could do things that seemed so daunting at first. I started using libraries for the blind, such as Bookshare and the Library of Congress, and online Braille services.

I became an independent student, and I deeply appreciated the support of my host family, the Fulbright organization and my friends and classmates.

I realized that if people with special needs are given opportunities, they will perform and work as hard as everyone else. We only need to be given opportunities.

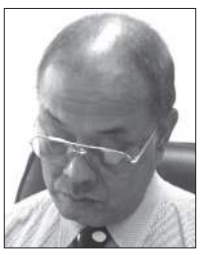
The Fulbright scholarship gave me the opportunity to flourish so that I can now help others.

Coming from a lonely place, where electricity was rare, a bus passed by infrequently and hope was stillborn, I've learned that America is not just where the latest technology flourishes, but it's where humanity helps impossible-seeming dreams come to life.

I recently finished my master's degree, and I can't wait to help those who are waiting and dreaming, hope against hope, to see and hear the world come alive—to help people like me.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Pipinu` Na Sagu



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Mauleg sa` tiha fatotoigue hit un` pipinu` na sagu ni mafanana`an coronavirus. I chenut: mañahguan i gofes hanum `nai hinichum hinagoñgña i tautau estake dimalas.

Manadan tautau gi enteru elmundu man-inaffekta. Megai na faketeria man-mahuchum pot megai gi empleau man-malañgu. Adumididi` sige man-homlu` ya ha bira siha tatte gi offisiun niha.

Lau tiempun ha`ilas `nai tat kinalamten tiha estotba seriosamente. Tana` fan mesñgun hit sa` siempre u upus hit este na malatiempu.

15-Mit

Guaha kase 15-mit na empleau guine gumagana suetdun popble. Makat na asuntu gi halum guma` familia i sessu tinetpi tinahuñg salape` para nesessidat niha.

Uma`atotpe este yan obligasion manma-elihe umadelanta i kualidat linala` tautau-ta siha ni marepresesenta. I asuntu ti attikulun konbiñiente. Obligasion! Kualidat linala` tautau i dichu asuntu.

Kase guaha planun miyu pumetsige asuntu ni siña sumede mas adelantu gi kinalamten familia siha guine. Haf` mohon?

Asuntu

Areglun lai publiku ma-intended para adelantun ha`anen tautau-ta gi todu petlas guine. I publiku u hinisga kau mapetsige inefresen adelantun kualidat linala` i tautau siha gi señgsuñg.

Pot ihemplu, malagnus ripot na 15-mit gi 26-mit na empleau guine gumagana suetdun popble. Gi hilu` este na faktu haf` mapetsige para uma-adelanta este na patte gi ha`anen empleau siha?

Seguruyu` na in` kemprende haf` i asuntu ha nesessita, prontu. Guaha planun miyu guine na asuntu? Na ti pot kualidat linala` familia i asuntu? Manu gi este na attikulu ti `in kemprende?

Pisu

Komprendiyun na i asuntu ha nesessita metgut na ekonomia `nai bula salape` yan cho`chu` guine. Yangin este `nai gaige i chinatsaga haf` in` petsisige para inna` metgut ekonomian i tanu`?

Ha suette i tanu` pot guaha dikiki` na industrian turista. Sin este, kase ta patten ñaihon latan satdinas kuattru biahe para tana` hinagu` otru sentada.

Guaha `nai in` atan otru siha nesessidat familia yan kau disiente kinalamten niha desde fanliheñg, tumobet yan trahe? Haf` sineda` miyu `an enfin in` tiñgu este na patte gi ha`anen tautau-ta siha? Suffisiente?

Yangin megaiña man-mamadedese haf` ineppen miyu para in` adelanta ha`anen niha segun ginagau obligasion miyu? Gaige i ineppe gi papa` guieñg miyu. Atan sa` diariu na matcha sin attension ginen hamyu!

Chichi`

Hu soda` amiguhu gi hospitat para u ali`e yan mediku. Hu faisen haf` chenotña. Ilegña, "malañgu-yu`". Esta chumichichi` ni putin koyenturan adeñgña pot dinalag.

Ha faisenyu` haf` inañgai-hu. Esta umi`iba` `nai ileghu na para bai fan "dalag" ya hu tatanchu` adeñgña. Hu sañgane na u sugu gi gima` ya u chule i kuattru patas guaka para kadoña! Esta chumichichi` yan kalulot talu`!

Pinadese

I chinatsagan tautau un` siente sin ditension ginen sensian mehnalum. Gaige gi liñguahen tatautauña i prohimu maseha hana`na` ñaihon pot himiddi `sino minamahlau.

Bastara ke patgon popble-yu` libianu hu taitai chinatsagan maseha haye na kilisyanu ginen fuetsan silensiu na patte gi moduña. Tuñgu`un na sentimentu ni ti presisu mana oppan.

Suetdu

Mafattu kuestion giya guahu haf` mas chinatsagan niha lau mangai offisiu. Gi mismu tiempu maripot na 15-mit na empleau guine gumagana suetdun popble.

Estague` i dichu asuntu ni debi uma-satba ni mansabiun hegsu` I Deni`. Lau kulan mafatkiluye `sino maletke pot gai minakat i asuntu. Na ti manman hula` hamyu para in` adelanta kualidat linala` tautau miyu gi señgsuñg siha?

Haf` in` chechegue pa`gu para in` adelanta i sumen nachatsaga na suetdun popble? Siña inna` oppan haf` planun miyu?

Ha`ilas

I palabra pot pinadese `nai tatotpe tinaya` para nesessidat-ta siha. I monedan familia gueku! Gi mismu tiempu taya` otru koyenturan masaguaniye monedan familia.

Dispues achog un` fañoda` tinahuñg para u kubre todu. Tat kinalamten tiha utut sin ditension. Estague` signifikasion ha`ilas—tiempun tinaya—ni umafuetsas sattun na inadahe gi disposision guinahan familia.

Pinepble

Apmam na tiempu hu pokate kañadan miserapble na pinepble. Makat na fina`pus gi maseha haye na kilisyanu. Unu minagofhu: ti man-mañake ham para bai`n fanla`la`! Manu i guaha in` siñgun gi hilu` tinaya`. Metgut finana`guen nanan mame espirituat!

Teñga `an mamomokat-yu` para i dottrina hu kuestionan maisayu` kau este otdinariu na fina`pus familia? Lau todu klasen chinatsaga tumotpe Marianas guihe na tiempu tat kumu tinilaikan administrasion Navy esta i Interior.

Huli`e mattirun tumunug suetdu desde $.75 gi ora papa` gi $.16 gi ora `sino $1.28 gi dia. Mauleg sa` labaratu i fektus siha guine na tiempu. Gi katkuet kinalamten makat yan sapet gi todu familia!

Lau taimanu un` kubre nesessidat 16 na membron familia yan $.16 gi ora? Hu padese mina` hu tuñgu` na makat na sapet gi unu yan todu. Makat na kañada `nai todu biradamu un` fagcha`e tinaya`!

Lessons from Singapore's coronavirus transparency



By FAYE FLAM
Bloomberg Opinion

Faye Flam is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. She has written for the* Economist, The New York Times, *the* Washington Post, Psychology Today, Science *and other publications. She has a degree in geophysics from the California Institute of Technology.*

There is something fascinating about reading Singapore's government-supplied coronavirus outbreak information. The data is organized as an unfolding, public story tracing relevant details of the known cases of COVID-19 diagnosed there.

The website shares the age, sex and occupation of each person who has tested positive for the virus. It reveals where they travelled recently, and when they sought medical help. It explains when they were hospitalized and when they were discharged. There's data on their local whereabouts, including whether they attended either of two large church services which appear to tie together two clusters of the disease.

In contrast, in the United States, there are disturbing revelations of online misinformation, including YouTubers advising people to drink bleach. The president has contradicted scientific consensus in offering reassurances that containment is likely and a vaccine is on the way; experts, including infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci of the NIH, say containment is unlikely and a vaccine could take more than a year to test, develop and deploy.

Now the Trump administration is trying to control the flow of information out of CDC, which is exactly backwards. The CDC or another scientific body should be vetting the statements coming out of the White House.

The freedom to get information about the disease in Singapore, of course, comes at the cost of patient privacy. The Singapore patients aren't named, but there's enough information their identities might be inferred—something that would be scandalous in the United States. News reports also show that in Singapore and elsewhere in Asia, some governments are coercing citizens to disclose their movements in ways that would be unacceptable in a Western democracy.

But the American approach also has drawbacks: the freedom to disseminate information has allowed speculation and conspiracy theory to drown out responsible coverage of the disease, leaving citizens scared and confused.

Some of this misinformation stems from the way scientists are exchanging information now—not through vetted, peer reviewed papers but through hastily posted data, including one paper that suggested that there were similarities between the new coronavirus and HIV. Some conspiracy theorists used that to promote the notion that the virus was bioengineered. The paper was criticized, and the rumor debunked, but scientists argue that the ability to disseminate information fast is worth the price of possible misinformation getting to the public.

The hodgepodge of information, speculation, conspiracy theory and disinformation is what Georgetown University law professor Lawrence Gostin calls an infodemic. The cure isn't to curb freedom of information and the press, but to supply trustworthy sources.

"Where is the surgeon general?" asks Columbia University medical ethicist Art Caplan. In his view, we would benefit from a single, trusted, accountable expert whose job is to keep the public updated. Other candidates could be the NIH's Fauci, the head of CDC or someone else with relevant expertise and some ability to explain science and its inherent uncertainty to the public.

The U.S. could also learn from Singapore's approach to testing for COVID-19. Singapore has been working toward widespread testing using antibodies, which linger after an infection has cleared, and can therefore give information about who has been infected. That would be an improvement over most of the tests done so far, which rely on detecting genetic material from the virus itself, and therefore can't detect those who have harbored and later cleared an infection. Widespread testing of both current and past infections could help scientists understand the spread of the virus and predict who is most at risk.

In contrast, the United States has been slow to deploy any tests at all. It took more than a week for anyone to test a hospitalized women in California who represents the first case in the country of community spread—someone who hasn't been to China or in close contact with anyone who has.

This week's New York Times has suggested that we "Go Medieval" against this new scourge—using such tactics as mandatory testing, as Cuba did for HIV, or quarantine, which has been used since the days of the Black Death.

Americans are unlikely to tolerate the kinds of mass quarantines imposed in China. However, even liberty-minded Americans should be willing to sacrifice some privacy in order to help experts trace the spread of the disease; and it's not unreasonable to ask a few people likely to have been exposed to stay home for a while. Extensive voluntary testing, surveillance and contact tracing could work—and avoid the sacrifice of freedom required to go Medieval.

A noncoercive, cooperative fight against the virus, however, might require public trust in the government, the press and scientists. In the United States, there was once a system in which the press held government accountable and communities held newspapers accountable. Now people get much of their information from social media. The president calls reporters enemies of the people and uses Twitter to send out misleading notions about vaccines and climate science.

COVID-19 will test democracies' principles of freedom and commitment to human rights. We will have to walk a fine line between letting transparency and reason prevail, and taking sensible precautions to save lives.

CORONAVIRUS

From Page 10

the federal government's handling of the coronavirus, the president launched an evidenceless accusation that Democrats and the media are exploiting the situation to make it look "as bad as possible" and plunge the stock market. This is not the time for political pandering.

The health professionals have the expertise to stay ahead of the spread of the coronavirus, and the American people can handle challenges as long as they know the unvarnished facts untainted by politics.

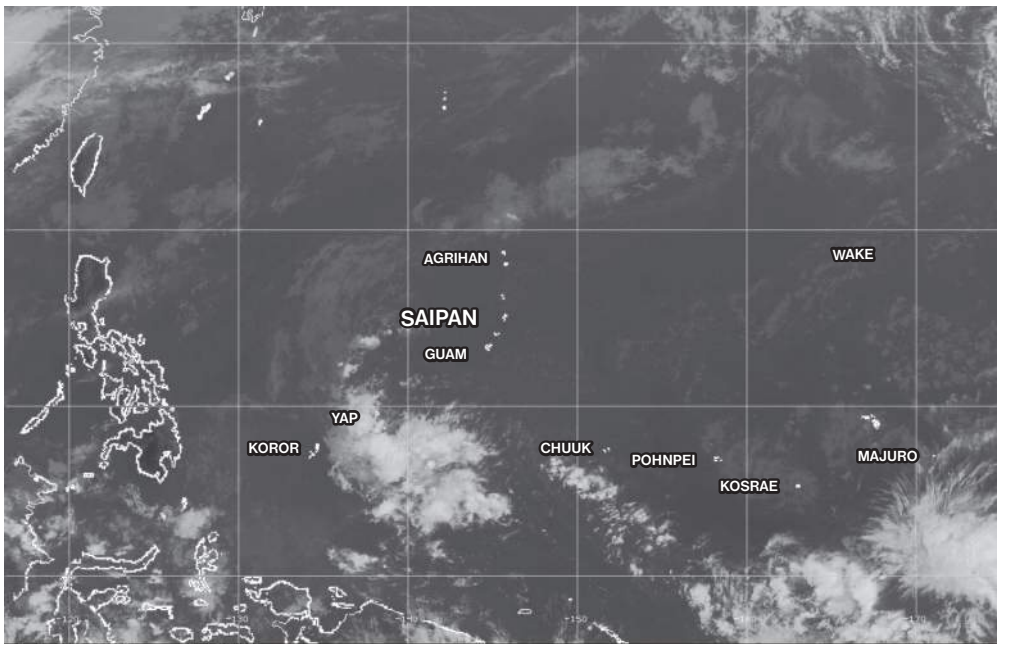
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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87° 76°	87° 76°	87° 76°	87° 77°	87° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:32 AM, TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Clouds and showers will steadily decrease today with only a slight chance of showers expected through the week. Model rainfall estimates for the next 10 days average out at around a half inch of rain. Winds, gusty at times during the day, will decrease late in the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Windy	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Windy	86° / 79°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	72° / 63°
Beijing	Sunny	52° / 30°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	70° / 64°
Honolulu	Showers	80° / 69°
London	Showers	48° / 36°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	74° / 53°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	91° / 75°
Melbourne	Rain	70° / 61°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81° / 74°
New York	Mostly Sunny	56° / 39°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	48° / 39°
Paris	Showers	48° / 43°
Busan	Sunny	52° / 37°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	61° / 39°
Salem	Rain	60° / 52°
San Francisco	Sunny	63° / 48°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	46° / 25°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	55° / 41°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	62° / 41°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:13 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.40
8:47 AM	LOW TIDE	1.15
1:41 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.52
9:35 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.04

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:31 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:30 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:30 AM	6:25 PM
Sunday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:24 AM	12:58 PM
Thursday	-	2:20 AM	1:53 PM
Friday	-	3:17 AM	2:53 PM
Saturday	-	4:13 AM	3:55 PM
Sunday	-	5:08 AM	4:58 PM

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 6, 2020

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	3:35am	7:20am	4
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily
OZ6243	3:10pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6
OZ624	3:30pm	7:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
TW310	5:40pm	10:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	Daily via GUM
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:10pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:30pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6
OZ623	8:10am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW309	11:10am	4:40pm	Daily
OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
OZ625	9:05pm	2:25am+1	3
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:05pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3 via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/6233	12:35am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ746/623	12:35am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Supreme Court will decide the fate of Obama health care law



AP
In this Jan. 27, 2020 photo, the Supreme Court is seen in Washington, DC.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court agreed Monday to decide a lawsuit that threatens the Obama-era health care law, a case that will keep health care squarely in front of voters even though a decision won't come until after the 2020 election.

The court said it would hear an appeal by 20 mainly Democratic states of a lower-court ruling that declared part of the statute unconstitutional and cast a cloud over the rest.

For the more than 20 million people covered under "Obamacare," nothing changes while the Supreme Court deliberates. The law's subsidized private insurance coverage and Medicaid expansion remain in place while the issues are litigated again.

Defenders of the Affordable Care Act argued that the questions raised by the case are too important to let it drag on for months or years in lower courts and that the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans erred when it struck down the health law's now toothless requirement that Americans have health insurance.

The case will be the third major Supreme Court battle over the law since President Barack Obama signed it nearly 10 years ago, on March 23, 2010. The court has twice upheld the heart of the law, with Chief Justice John Roberts memorably siding with the court's liberals in 2012, amid Obama's reelection campaign. The majority that upheld the law twice remains on the court, Roberts and the four liberal justices.

The Trump administration's views on the law have shifted over time, but it has always supported getting rid of provisions that prohibit insurance companies from discriminating against people with existing health ailments. Even as the administration seeks to overturn "Obamacare" in court, President Donald Trump has claimed people with preexisting conditions would still be protected. Neither the White House nor congressional Republicans have specified how.

Congressional repeal narrowly failed in 2017, when the Republicans controlled the House and the Senate. Any repeal effort now would be blocked by the Democratic-led House under Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

The Supreme Court's review of the case guarantees that the fate of the health care law will be in the public's eye as the election approaches, even if the decision doesn't come until 2021.

The timing means written briefs from both sides will likely be due in the summer, and arguments could take place in early fall before the election, if the court follows its usual practice of scheduling cases.

Asian shares rise on hopes central banks may act on outbreak

TOKYO (AP)—Asian shares rose Tuesday amid hopes that central banks will take action to shield the global economy from the effects of the coronavirus outbreak.

Japan's Nikkei 225 gained 0.5% in morning trading to 21,441.82. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 jumped 1.9% to 6,510.90. South Korea's Kospi rose 1.8% to 2,038.38. Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged up 0.4% to 26,403.19, while the Shanghai Composite was up nearly 1.1% at 3,002.56.

The upbeat mood in the region comes after the Dow Jones Industrial Average soared nearly 1,300 points, or 5%. The huge gains clawed back some of the ground lost last week in a massive sell-off that gave stocks their worst stretch since the financial crisis of 2008.

"So why are markets so pumped by prospects of monetary response; arguably not the most apt tool to address the direct fallout from coronavirus related disruptions," said Vishnu Varathan at Mizuho Bank in Singapore.

"One reason may be that more nuanced measures to ease cash-flow will offer reprieve for businesses and households affected by seizures in activity and disruptions in supply-chains."

On Wall Street, technology companies led the broad gains, which gave the Dow its biggest-ever point gain and biggest percentage increase since March 2009. The S&P 500 index jumped 4.6%, its best day since December 2018.

The virus epidemic that began in central China has been shutting down industrial centers, emptying shops and severely crimping travel all over the world. More companies are warning investors that their finances will take a hit because of disruptions to supply chains and sales.

Amid the worsening outlook, investors are increasingly anticipating that the Federal Reserve and other major central banks around the world will lower interest rates or take other steps to shield the global economy from the effects of the outbreak.

"Investors have convinced themselves that global central banks will likely be even more accommodative in order to short-circuit any psychological damage, " said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA.

Bill Nelson, chief economist at the Bank Policy Institute and a former Fed economist, said the Fed and other major central banks, possibly including China's, could announce coordinated rate cuts by Wednesday morning. The cut would at least be a half-point and perhaps even three-quarters, he said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Apple to pay up to $500M over battery-related phone slowdown

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—IPhone owners could get $25 from Apple after the company agreed to pay up to $500 million to settle claims over intentionally slowing down older phones to preserve older batteries. Apple and lawyers representing iPhone consumers agreed to a deal stemming from Apple's 2017 admission that it was slowing down phone performance in older models to avoid unexpected shutdowns related to battery fatigue. That admission led to Apple offering discounted battery replacements at $29, but many people claimed they had already spent hundreds of dollars to buy new phones because Apple didn't reveal the cause of the problem. If they had known they could just buy new batteries, they might not have bought new phones, some consumers in the case said.

ECB's Lagarde: 'Ready to take targeted action' on economy

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—The head of the European Central Bank said Monday that Europe's top monetary authority is ready to take "appropriate and targeted measures" if necessary to support the economy against the headwinds from the new coronavirus. Christine Lagarde said in a statement that the virus "is a fast developing situation which creates risks for the economic outlook." She said the bank would closely monitor developments and act "as necessary and commensurate with the underlying risks." Lagarde's remarks come as stock markets have risen in the U.S. on speculation that central banks may step in with action to support the global economy against the disruption caused by the spread of the virus. That is the case even though some economists think central bank action might only have symbolic value, since lower interest rates cannot re-open businesses that have been closed to prevent the spread of the virus. Lower rates can boost stocks, however, and might be used to prevent turmoil on equity markets from spilling over to the wider economy.

France's Louvre stays shut amid staff fears of virus spread

PARIS (AP)—Tourists trying to visit the Louvre Museum on Monday were out of luck, as the world's most visited museum stayed closed for a second straight day because of workers' worries about the potential spread of the new virus. Most of the Paris landmark's 9.6 million visitors last year came from other countries, and the museum that houses the Mona Lisa and other treasures welcomes tens of thousands of people every day. While unions held meetings with management and the Culture Ministry on Monday, disappointed crowds huddled under umbrellas outside the Louvre's famed pyramid. By afternoon no compromise had been reached, and the museum remained shuttered. The French government on Saturday banned any indoor gatherings larger than 5,000 people to prevent the spread of the virus, so on Sunday, Louvre workers said that should apply to their workplace, too, and blocked the museum from opening.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
3,090.23	26,703.32	8,952.17
+136.01	+1,293.96	+384.80
+4.60%	+5.09%	+4.49%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.4	Hong Kong Dollar	7.78	Russian Ruble	66.16
British Pound	1.53	Indian Rupee	72.07	Singapore Dollar	1.39
Canadian Dollar	1.33	Indonesian Rupiah	14,043.96	South Korean Won	1,170.36
Chinese Yuan	6.85	Malaysian Ringgit	4.16	Swiss Franc	0.96
Euro	0.90	New Zealand Dollar	1.60	Taiwan Dollar	29.47
		Philippine Peso	49.73	Thailand Baht	31.53

Nation

Trump lobs fresh barbs at Dems, rallies GOP faithful in NC

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—President Donald Trump gloated about the stock market roaring back Monday, while throwing sharp barbs at the thinning Democratic presidential field on the eve of Super Tuesday's big round of primaries.

Trump's spirits were high after the Dow Jones Industrial Average soared nearly 1,300 points, or 5%, clawing back from a seven-day rout in which it dropped more than 3,500 points. Stocks rose Monday on hopes that central banks will take action to shield the global economy from the effects of the coronavirus outbreak.

"Do you think our opponents were thrilled when they saw the stock market today?" asked Trump, who has taken credit for a bull market throughout his three years in office.

The president threw some of his hardest punches at former Vice President Joe Biden, who is coming off a decisive win in Saturday's South Carolina primary. Trump picked at Biden's propensity for rhetorical stumbles on the stump, suggesting it was a sign of senility.

"I honestly don't think he knows what office he's running for," Trump said. He speculated that if Biden wins the White House, "he's not going to be running it. Other people are going to. They're going to put him into a home and other people are going to be running the country and they're going to be super left radical crazies."

Trump allowed that Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who won finished at or near the top in three of the first four nominating contests, "does have some enthusiasm, but much less than we have."

It's a crucial moment in the nomination battle: Biden is making the case that moderates need to consolidate behind him to stop Sanders, a Democratic socialist, and give Democrats a shot at beating Trump in November.



President Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at Bojangles Coliseum, Monday, March 2, 2020, in Charlotte, N.C. AP

Two moderates have exited the race: former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar. Former New York City Mayor Bloomberg, who skipped the first four contests, will appear on the ballot for the first time Tuesday.

Trump speculated there may have been a "quid pro quo" for Buttigieg—the offer of a job in the next Democratic administration for dropping out and endorsing Biden.

"Impeach them. They should be impeached," Trump said.

Trump has offered daily commentary on the Democratic race, alternately boasting that no Democrat has a chance against him, ridiculing the top tier of candidates with derisive nicknames, and arguing that the party's establishment is trying to steal the nomination from Sanders.

Sanders shot back at Trump on CNN Monday night, saying: "President Trump, stay out of the Democratic primary. Why don't you do your job for a change as president?"

Earlier Monday, Trump said he had no qualms about attending a large stadium rally despite the coronavirus threat.

"I think it's very safe," Trump said of campaign rallies, adding that the Democratic candidates are having plenty of rallies themselves.

The threat of the virus didn't deter fans of Trump from attending Monday's rally in Charlotte, where people in the stands shared buckets of chicken fingers and dunked their hands into shared vats of popcorn while they awaited the president's arrival.

The coronavirus outbreak has killed more than 3,000 globally and upended life for many around the globe. In the U.S., the number of infections has surpassed 100, with six dead. Federal officials have not advised against large gatherings in the U.S., leaving that to local officials to address.

North Carolina, a perennial swing state, is among the 14 states, one territory and voters abroad that will cast their ballots Tuesday, races that represent about a third of all delegates.

Trump's rally in Charlotte follows his campaign's pattern of churning out robust counter-programming throughout the Democratic nominating process. In recent weeks, the president has held rallies in each of the four early voting states for the presidential nomination.

The president and the GOP are giving North Carolina, which has been decided by close margins over the last three presidential election cycles, plenty of attention.

Republicans have picked Charlotte to host the Republican National Convention. Trump also visited Charlotte last month as part of a series of revitalization and "opportunity now" summits, programs he and administration officials have highlighted as he tries to chip away at the Democrats' electoral advantage in minority communities.

On Super Tuesday eve, Biden gets boost from 2 former rivals

DALLAS (AP)—Rivals no more, Amy Klobuchar and Pete Buttigieg united behind Joe Biden's presidential bid on Monday as the Democratic Party's moderate wing scrambled to boost the former vice president just hours before voting began across a series of high-stakes Super Tuesday states.

The urgency of the moment reflected deep concerns from the Democratic establishment that Bernie Sanders, a polarizing progressive, was positioned to seize a significant delegate lead when 14 states, one U.S. territory vote on Tuesday.

Klobuchar suspended her campaign and endorsed Biden Monday, a day after Buttigieg announced his exit. Both Klobuchar and Buttigieg, who had been Biden's chief competition for their party's pool of more moderate voters over the last year, declared their public support for Biden at evening events in Dallas.

"I'm looking for a leader, I'm looking for a president, who will draw out what's best in each of us," Buttigieg said alongside Biden. "We have found that leader in vice president, soon-to-be president, Joe Biden."

Speaking at a Biden rally later in the night, Klobuchar called for unity: "If we spend the next four months dividing our party and going at each other we will spend the next four year watching Donald Trump tear apart our country," she said. "We need to unite our party and our country."

The dramatic developments came at a key crossroads in Democrats' turbulent primary season as the party struggles to unify behind a clear message or messenger in its urgent quest to defeat President Donald Trump. Yet as a field that once featured more than two dozen candidates shrinks to just five, the choice for primary voters is becoming clearer.

On one side stands Biden, a 77-year-old lifelong politician who represents a pragmatic approach to governing that emphasizes bipartisanship and more modest change. On the other stands Sanders, a 78-year-old democratic socialist who has for decades demanded aggressive liberal shifts that seek to transform the nation's political and economic systems.

Yet the primary isn't currently a two-man race.

New York billionaire Mike Bloomberg, in particular, could create problems for Biden's establishment appeal. The former New York City mayor, who will appear on a 2020 ballot for the first time on Tuesday, has invested more than a half billion dollars into his presidential bid and wracked up many high-profile endorsements of his own.

And Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has struggled for delegates and momentum over the last month, has vowed to stay in the race until the party's national convention in July.

On the eve of Super Tuesday, however, Biden received a significant boost following his resounding victory over the weekend in South Carolina.

He posted his best two-day fundraising haul in more than a year, raising roughly $10 million over the last 48 hours. And the former vice president added to his considerable endorsement lead in recent days as elected officials began to coalesce more meaningfully behind him. He has long been the favorite of many elected officials even as he struggled through the first three primary contests of the year.

LA district attorney sorry husband aimed gun at protesters

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The husband of the first black woman to lead the country's largest local prosecutor's office pointed a gun and said "I will shoot you" to Black Lives Matter members demonstrating outside the couple's home before dawn Monday, prompting an apology from his wife on the eve of her primary election.

In an emotional press conference, Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey said she and her husband, David, were awakened and frightened by the demonstration that occurred before 6 a.m.. She said he ran downstairs, where she heard him talking to someone, and that when he returned he said there were protesters.

She said he told her: "I pulled my gun, and I asked them to leave."

The encounter came ahead of a Tuesday primary election in which Lacey is seeking a third term. She has clashed repeatedly with Black Lives Matter protesters, who say she is too protective of law enforcement and doesn't prosecute officers in fatal shootings.

Black Lives Matter organizers spurned Lacey's apology during a separate news conference. They said they were "traumatized."

"She didn't apologize to us," Melina Abdullah said. "And an apology isn't enough. We need her to change. We need her to be accountable or she can retire."

In a video posted by Abdullah, David Lacey pointed a gun and said, "Get off. Get off of my porch."

He was an investigative auditor with the DA's office until his 2016 retirement.

"His response was in fear, and now that he realizes what happened, he wanted me to say to the protesters, the person that he showed the gun to, that he was sorry, that he was profoundly sorry." the prosecutor said. She also said she also was sorry.

Lacey said she has received death threats and has been followed, photographed and confronted repeatedly. She said she expects people to exercise their First Amendment rights, "but our home is our sanctuary."

"I do not believe it is fair or right for protesters to show up at the homes of people who dedicate their lives to public service," Lacey said.

Asia

Ex-guard frees dozens of hostages in Manila mall, is subdued

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A recently dismissed security guard freed dozens of hostages and was subdued by police after walking out of a shopping mall in the Philippine capital on Monday, ending a daylong hostage crisis in an upscale commercial district near the police and military headquarters, officials said.

The former guard at the Greenhills shopping center, identified by police as Archie Paray, left the mall in San Juan City in metropolitan Manila with the remaining hostages, who were then secured by police. Several others had managed to escape earlier, police said.

"Everyone is in shock, very traumatized. We'll have to give them time to recover," said San Juan Mayor Francis Zamora, who ordered an investigation, including into how the suspect was able to enter the mall with a pistol and grenades.

Instead of being immediately arrested, the suspect was allowed to speak for several minutes to journalists and authorities to describe his grievances against his former bosses, whom he accused of corruption and abuse, before police approached and subdued him.

Zamora said the suspect had a pistol with him when he walked down from a second-floor administrative office where he had held dozens of hostages, many of them mall employees. Other people hid in nearby offices and hallways and escaped in batches, he said.

There were between 60 to 70 hostages and people who were trapped in the mall by the standoff, Zamora said.

"I'm very thankful that everything ended up peacefully," said the mayor, who negotiated with the hostage-taker to give up his weapons and guaranteed his safety shortly before the crisis ended.

"He was asking if it's the cemetery or prison and I told him, Archie, you're safe," Zamora said.

The gunman shot and wounded a security officer at the V-Mall, part of the Greenhills complex, before he rushed to the second floor and took the hostages, Zamora said. The mall officer was in stable condition at a nearby hospital.

The hostage taker was dismissed after abandoning his job in recent weeks without notifying management, Zamora said.

The suspect later used his cellphone to deliver a message to the guards and the media, expressing his anger over a change in his work hours and accusing some of his superiors of corruption.

In a bid to appease the suspect during the hostage crisis, six officers in charge of overseeing the mall's security apologized to him at an early evening news conference for "shortcomings" and resigned or offered to quit.

"I'm asking for his forgiveness, and because of this, I'll resign from my job so this crisis will come to an end," said Oscar Hernandez, one of the security officers.

SWAT commandos entered the mall as the crisis unfolded, assault rifles ready. Other policemen stood by outside, along with an ambulance.

The shopping complex, popular for its restaurants, shops, bars and a bazaar, lies near an upscale residential enclave, a golf club and the police and military headquarters in the bustling Manila metropolis of more than 12 million people, where law and order have long been a concern.

Three years ago, a gunman stormed a mall-casino complex in Manila, shot TV monitors and set gambling tables on fire, killing 36 people who were mostly suffocated by the thick smoke. The gunman stole casino chips before he fled but was found dead in an apparent suicide in an adjacent hotel at the Resorts World Manila complex.

The attack was claimed by the Islamic State group, but Philippine authorities rejected the claim, saying the attacker was not a Muslim militant but a heavily indebted gambler.



AP

Hostage taker Archie Paray, right, shakes hands with a security guard in uniform as he after releases all his hostages at the VV-Mall in Manila, Philippines on Monday, March 2, 2020.

China's crisis wanes as epidemic takes hold in US and elsewhere

BEIJING (AP)—China's coronavirus caseload continued to wane Tuesday even as the epidemic took a firmer hold beyond Asia, with three countries now exceeding 1,000 cases and the U.S. reporting its sixth death.

The health ministry announced just 125 new cases detected over the past 24 hours, China's lowest number since Jan. 20. Another 31 deaths were reported, all of them in the hardest-hit province of Hubei. The figures bring China's total number of cases to 80,151 with 2,943 deaths.

The global shift in the COVID-19 epidemic was apparent with 2,410 recovered patients being released from Hubei's hospitals and treatment centers, many of them hastily built over recent weeks to cope with the thousands of people sickened by the virus. But new infections outside China were far surpassing its totals.

Clusters of disease grew in South Korea, Italy and Iran, and the virus has turned up for the first time in New York, Moscow and Berlin, as well as Latvia, Indonesia, Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, Jordan and Portugal. The worldwide death toll topped 3,000, and the number of cases tops 89,000 in about 70 countries.

Global health officials sought to reassure the public that the virus remains a manageable threat.

"Containment is feasible and must remain the top priority for all countries," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

Around the world, the crisis reshaped the daily routines of millions of people.

School children in Japan stayed home with schools closed until April. Israelis in quarantine used special booths to vote in national elections. Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel was rebuffed by her interior minister when she extended her hand to greet him. And the United Nations postponed a major conference on women that had been expected to bring up to 12,000 people from its 193 member countries to New York next week.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development warned that the world economy could contract this quarter for the first time since the international financial crisis more than a decade ago. "Global economic prospects remain subdued and very uncertain," it said.

Nevertheless, the Dow Jones Industrial Average soared nearly 1,300 points, or 5%, as stocks roared back from a seven-day rout on hopes that central banks will take action to shield the global economy from the effects of the outbreak. Finance ministers and bank leaders from the Group of Seven major industrial countries said they will confer by phone Tuesday to discuss an economic response.

Japanese mothers struggle to cope after virus shuts schools

TOKYO (AP)—Keiko Kobayashi brought her 7-year-old son to her Tokyo office on Monday after his school, like most others in Japan, suddenly closed for four weeks in a government effort to slow the rapid spread of the new virus. She was lucky—her employer agreed to let them temporarily share an executive office with another mother and child.

"I was shocked by the news of the school closures, and thought, what should I do?" said Kobayashi, a senior manager at a multinational staffing service provider. "There was no explanation of how this is going to work."

In a country where nannies and babysitters are uncommon and mothers are still expected to be responsible for child rearing, the measure is forcing many employed mothers to limit their working hours. The situation is even harder for single parents and those with children who have disabilities.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced a plan last Thursday to close schools across Japan from Monday until the end of the month. He said the coming period is critical in determining whether Japan can take control of the outbreak. Nearly 1,000 people, including 706 on a quarantined cruise ship, have been infected in the country and 12 have died.

The school closures come near the end of Japan's academic year, leaving little or no time for final exams or graduation ceremonies for the country's 12.7 million students.

Kobayashi said she is still exploring various options, including sending her son to a public daycare center for part of the day, or trying to work from home more often.

"But if I work from home, my son has TV and a lot of undesirable temptations when I'm not watching him," she said. "Creating an environment where he can concentrate on his study will be a challenge."

Abe excluded daycare centers and after-school clubs from the school closures to help parents with preschoolers or others who cannot get off work early enough, triggering questions about the effectiveness of the shutdowns.

"Honestly, I doubt if the closures can be effective," said Sachiko Aoki, the colleague who is sharing the office with Kobayashi. She said she is reluctant to send her child to a daycare facility because they're likely to be packed with children who could have the virus.

Critics also note that children appear to be far less likely to test positive for the virus, and say the government should focus instead on the elderly and infirm who account for most of the deaths.

According to the World Health Organization, a study of more than 44,000 patients in China with confirmed infections, only 2.1% were younger than 20.

A member of a government-appointed panel defended the school closings, saying young people without symptoms might pass infections to older people.

Mika Nakajima, a museum employee and single mother with a 15-year-old autistic son who is sensitive to noise and people around him, said she has already used up her paid vacation days to take care of her aging parents and her son late last year, and is on the verge of losing her job.

World

Exit polls: Netanyahu short of majority in Israel vote



AP
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu smiles after first exit poll results for the Israeli elections at his party's headquarters in Tel Aviv, Israel, Monday, Feb. 2, 2020.

JERUSALEM (AP)—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party on Monday emerged as the largest party in the country's third election in under a year, exit polls indicated, but it was unclear whether the embattled Israeli leader could secure a parliamentary majority as he prepares to go on trial for corruption charges later this month.

Exit polls on Israeli TV stations appeared to show that Likud and its smaller ultra-religious and nationalist allies had captured 59 seats, two short of the majority required to declare victory.

His opponents were projected to get a majority of 61 seats. But with his main challenger, the centrist Blue and White party, trailing Likud by several seats and the rest of the opposition fragmented, polls were pointing to a continued paralysis of Israel's political system.

Addressing a raucous crowd of thousands of ecstatic supporters at 2:30 a.m., Netanyahu claimed a "giant victory."

"This is a victory against all the odds, because we stood against powerful forces," he said. "They already eulogized us. Our opponents said the Netanyahu era is over."

He vowed to immediately begin work to form a new coalition and press forward with a hardline agenda that includes annexing large parts of the West Bank—a step that would destroy any remaining hopes of establishing a Palestinian state.

Despite the wild celebrations, Netanyahu could have difficulties forming a new government. After initially predicting that the prime minister was on the cusp of victory, exit polls projected a tight race that appeared to leave him short of the parliamentary majority he covets.

If official results on Tuesday match the exit polls, Netanyahu could go on trial March 17 weakened and stuck in political gridlock.

Netanyahu was indicted in November on charges of fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes, making him the first sitting prime minister to be charged with a crime. He denies any wrongdoing and says he is the victim of a witch hunt by police, prosecutors and a hostile media.

During the campaign, Netanyahu failed in a bid to secure immunity from prosecution. As prime minister, he could still rally public opposition against prosecutors and judges in the case. He also could seek other avenues to delay or derail the proceedings against him.

Aviad Glickman, the legal affairs correspondent for Channel 13 TV, said that if Likud emerges victorious, Netanyahu's lawyers will likely seek to delay the trial. He also said there are serious concerns in the legal system that if Netanyahu secures another term, he will try to fire his attorney general, who filed the indictment against him, and push for legislation that would allow parliament to strike down Supreme Court rulings it opposes.

A Likud victory could also force the court to rule on Netanyahu's future. An advocacy group, seeking to oust Netanyahu, earlier this year asked the court to rule whether an indicted parliament member can be designated prime minister and asked to form a new government.

The Supreme Court in January declined to rule on the request, saying it was premature. But the issue could come up again if President Reuven Rivlin formally taps Netanyahu to form a new government.

After elections, the president is responsible for picking a prime minister and forming a majority coalition. He usually chooses the leader of the largest party, but it's not required, and the decision has been complicated by Netanyahu's trial.

After September's election, both Netanyahu and Gantz, a former military chief, were given opportunities to form coalitions. Both failed. With Likud projected to be the largest party, Netanyahu could again get first crack at assembling a coalition this time around.

According to the exit polls, Netanyahu's Likud was projected to win 36 to 37 seats, up from 32 seats in September's vote. Gantz's centrist Blue and White party, which ran on a message that the prime minister is unfit to lead because of the serious charges against him, was projected to win 32-34 seats, roughly the same as in September.

Venezuelan official says threat to Guaidó a 'lie'

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—A powerful ally of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro on Monday denied any type of armed threats against U.S.-backed opposition leader Juan Guaidó as shown in a widely circulated photograph.

The image taken by a member of Guaidó's press team depicts an armed man in street clothes and a motorcycle helmet pointing a pistol at a group of people led by Guaidó during a Saturday street rally.

Opposition leaders marching with Guaidó said that socialist hardliners loyal to Maduro also opened fire to intimidate opposition supporters at the event in the central city of Barquisimeto, injuring a 16-year-old boy who was shot in the leg.

However, Maduro ally and socialist party boss Diosdado Cabello in a news conference Monday called the photo a "lie" distributed by the opposition in an attempt to trick Guaidó followers into thinking his life is in danger.

"He're an alleged gunman, an armed man," Cabello said, holding up a copy of the photo. "Everyone is calm... and Guaidó keeps on talking."

Cabello said that the boy was injured a long distance from Guaidó, dismissing it as an unrelated incident.

According to opposition leaders interviewed by The Associated Press on Saturday, about 200 armed civilians and government security forces ambushed marchers led by Guaidó. They said several others were roughed up as the Maduro loyalists harassed participants.

The AP was not present at the rally so was unable to verify the account made by either side. The photo of the gunman aiming at Guaido was provided to the AP by the opposition leader's team.

The confusing incident is believed to be the first time pro-government vigilantes known as colectivos have aimed a weapon at Guaidó, who the U.S. and more than 50 other countries recognize as Venezuela's rightful leader following Maduro's re-election in 2018 in a race the opposition says was marred by irregularities.

It is was the first public trip Guaidó has taken outside the capital of Caracas since returning from an international tour to rally support, including a White House meeting with President Donald Trump, who invited Guaidó as a special guest to his annual State of the Union address.

The incident was widely condemned in the international community by the European Union, the Organization of American States and the Lima Group, which integrates a dozen countries in the region to find a way out of the Venezuelan crisis.

Guaidó has called for a demonstration on March 10, when the opposition will attempt to retake control of their legislative building in the center of Caracas. Armed civilians and security forces have forcefully blocked opposition lawmakers from entering the building since January.

WORLD BRIEFS

Guatemala sentences ex congress president to 30 years

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—A Guatemalan court on Monday sentenced the former president of the country's congress to more than 30 years in prison for acts of corruption. Pedro Muadi was sentenced for money laundering, illegal association and embezzlement. Prosecutors said he hired people who didn't work and whose salaries were instead funneled to businesses in which he was the majority shareholder. The case was investigated by Guatemala's special anti-corruption prosecutor along with the now shuttered United Nations anti-corruption mission. They said Muadi, who led the congress in 2013, had diverted some $560,000 in public funds. Muadi maintained his innocence and said the charges were politically motivated. The sentence also prevents Muadi from holding and requires him to pay a fine equal to the stolen funds.

Scientists meet in Havana on diplomats' mystery illnesses

HAVANA (AP)—Some scientists who gathered Monday for a two-day conference on the mysterious illnesses suffered by U.S. and Canadian diplomats in Havana said they suspected pesticides as a possible culprit, although results remained inconclusive. The dozens of illnesses reported in recent years led the U.S. and Canada to sharply reduce the staffing at their embassies in Cuba. The phenomenon also led to increased tension between Cuba and the Trump administration, which accused Cuba of bearing at least some responsibility for the illnesses. The conference entitled "Is There a Havana Syndrome?" brought together Cuban scientists with researchers from universities in Halifax, Canada, Edinburgh, Scotland, the universities of California at Los Angeles and San Diego.

Vatican sends top 2 sex crimes investigators to Mexico

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican is sending its top two sex crimes investigators to Mexico on a fact-finding and assistance mission as the Catholic hierarchy in the world's second-largest Catholic country begins to reckon with decades of clergy sex abuse and cover-up. Archbishop Charles Scicluna and Monsignor Jordi Bertomeu teamed up in 2018 to investigate the Chilean church and its wretched record of protecting pedophile priests—a bombshell expose that resulted in every active Chilean bishop offering to resign. Their new mission to Mexico, due to take place March 20-27, was announced Monday in Mexico and at the Vatican. Officials stressed it was not an investigation per se but an assistance mission to help the Mexican church combat abuse.

Good Housekeeping

Fish Fry Day

4 great recipes for the Lenten season

By DANIEL NEMAN
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Lent. It's a time for reflection. A time for humility. And definitely a time for fish.

For most American Christians, Lent began Wednesday (for the Eastern Orthodox churches, it began Monday). That means believers will spend the next seven Fridays avoiding meat.

A large number of people during Lent turn instead to fish (though the Orthodox churches avoid fish with backbones, as well).

For this Lenten season, I made four appropriate dishes, two with fish and two with shellfish. Each one was so delicious that I'm afraid they may not be entirely in the spirit of somber reflection and self-sacrifice.

But that's OK. They're great to eat when it is not Lent, too.

I started with the most typical of all Lenten meals, at least in this town: fried fish. I humbly suggest it was better than anything you could get at a church, but that is probably because I made a relatively small batch, instead of the churches' assembly-line cooking, and I used a slightly more expensive ingredient than they use.

The ingredient I used was panko bread crumbs for the breading. I had planned to use the traditional cornmeal, but I discovered as I started to cook that I had run out of the traditional cornmeal. So, panko—which I did have—it was.

And I'm glad it worked out just as I totally intentionally meant it to, because panko makes everything fried taste better. It gives it an extra crispy snap that is simply delightful.

Next up was a dish I hadn't made in some time but has long been a favorite: Shrimp with Soy, Garlic, Ginger and Lemon. When I first met the friends of the woman who was to become my wife, this is the dish I made. One plateful, and they decided to like me.

With the ingredients listed in the name (shrimp, soy, garlic, ginger and lemon), it is not surprising that it has a certain Chinese flair. It is even stir-fried, though I have also had considerable success modifying the recipe slightly and cooking it on the grill.

Unlike simpler stir-fries, it requires a three-part procedure to cook. First, you make a marinade with all of the ingredients in the title, and more—sherry, for one. After you marinate the shrimp for an hour, you strain out the marinade and thicken it with a slurry of cornstarch and water to make an amazingly flavorful sauce.

Then comes the stir-frying of the shrimp, with more garlic and ginger, plus red bell pepper. Your house will smell as great as your dinner will taste.

My third dish was another old favorite and a traditional way to prepare fish: en papillote. The phrase means "in paper" or "in parchment," and it refers to a way of wrapping fish or occasionally chicken in a sealed parchment packet along with vegetables and a splash of liquid, often wine.

You bake the packets in the oven, and the fish gently cooks in the steam that is created inside the packet.

This particular version begins with salmon, which is placed on top of a bed of sautéed carrots and mushrooms. Dill is placed on top of that—a natural with salmon—and plenty of shallots to provide a mild, earthy onion flavor. The fish was cooked to perfection, and the whole dish from presentation (everyone oohs and ahs when you cut open the packet) to taste was stunning.

My final dish came from a cookbook by Legal Seafood, the popular East Coast chain of seafood restaurants. The book says that the recipe is one of the restaurants' most popular pasta dishes, which makes sense when you consider the main ingredients: scallops, heavy cream and mushrooms.

Imagine seared scallops served in an exquisite cream of mushroom soup sauce. Now imagine that the sauce gets its low notes from garlic and scallions, and its high from white wine, and it's all piled atop bowtie pasta.

Yeah. It's that good.


TNS

Scallops and Mushroom Bowtie Pasta.

SCALLOPS AND MUSHROOM BOWTIE PASTA

Yield: 4 servings

- 4 to 6 ounces portobello mushrooms
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 cup dry white wine
- 8 ounces bowtie pasta
- Vegetable oil (not olive)
- 1 1/2 pounds sea scallops
- 1 cup chopped scallions, white parts only, or sweet onions
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- Salt and pepper

1 Remove the stems from the mushrooms and coarsely chop them. Slice the caps and set aside.

2 Place the mushroom stems and the cream in a small, nonreactive saucepan. Bring the cream to a boil and gently boil for at least 10 minutes or until the cream is reduced by half. Pour in the wine and boil for 2 to 3 minutes longer. Set the mixture aside. This sauce can be kept in the refrigerator for up to 3 days before using.

3 Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil, add the pasta and cook until cooked through but still firm, 10 to 15 minutes, depending on the brand.

4 Meanwhile, put enough oil in a very hot pan to film it lightly. Add the scallops and sear lightly on both sides (they will continue to cook as the recipe continues); their surface should be a light, nutty brown. Add the mushroom caps, scallions and garlic. Cook over medium heat for 2 minutes or until the mushrooms are barely cooked through. Stir in the reserved mushroom sauce and reheat gently.

5 Drain the pasta thoroughly and mix with the scallop mixture. Sprinkle with the parsley. Season liberally with salt and pepper to taste.

Per serving: 439 calories; 16 g fat; 10 g saturated fat; 62 mg cholesterol; 23 g protein; 62 g carbohydrate; 4 g sugar; 3 g fiber; 1,059 mg sodium; 58 mg calcium

Adapted from "The New Legal Sea Foods Cookbook" by Roger Berkowitz and Jane Doerfer

SALMON WITH FRESH DILL EN PAPILLOTE

Yield: 6 servings

- 5 carrots, peeled and trimmed
- 3/4 pound large mushrooms
- 4 tablespoons butter, divided
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 3/4 cup scallions cut into 2-inch lengths
- Salt and pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh dill leaves
- 2 pounds salmon fillets, cut into 6 equal-size pieces
- 6 tablespoons chopped shallots
- 6 tablespoons dry white wine

1 Preheat the oven to 500 degrees.

2 Spread a large sheet of heavy-duty aluminum foil or parchment paper on a flat surface. Invert a 12-inch round cake pan on the foil and trace around the pan with a sharp knife to make a 12-inch circle. Repeat this until you have 6 circles.

3 Cut the carrots crosswise into 1-inch lengths. Cut each piece lengthwise into matchstick strips.

4 Cut off and discard the stem of each mushroom and cut the cap into thin slices.

5 Heat 2 tablespoons of the butter in a frying pan over medium-high heat. Add the mushrooms and lemon juice. Cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Add the carrots, scallions and salt; then cover and cook 7 to 8 minutes. Sprinkle the dill on top and stir well. Cover and set aside.

6 Melt the remaining 2 tablespoons of butter in a small saucepan. Place the foil rounds on a flat surface and brush them with the melted butter. Spoon equal portions of the carrot mixture on each circle slightly below the center, leaving a margin large enough to fold over.

7 Lay a slice of salmon over each mound of vegetables. Sprinkle each serving with a tablespoon of shallots, a tablespoon of wine and salt and pepper.

8 Fold the foil to completely enclose the contents, while leaving some room for expansion. Crimp the seal as tightly as possible. Arrange the packages on a baking sheet and bake for 8 minutes.

Per serving: 351 calories; 18 g fat; 6 g saturated fat; 104 mg cholesterol; 33 g protein; 10 g carbohydrate; 5 g sugar; 3 g fiber; 496 mg sodium; 48 mg calcium

Adapted from "The Seafood Cookbook; Classic to Contemporary" by Pierre Franey and Bryan Miller

FRIED CATFISH

Yield: 2 to 4 servings

- 1 cup milk
- 1 pound catfish fillets
- Vegetable oil for frying
- 1 1/2 cups panko bread crumbs or cornmeal
- 2 tablespoons pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- Salt to taste
- Lemon wedges

1 Pour the milk into a bowl and let the catfish soak in it while you heat about 1 1/2 inches of oil in a large pan to about 375 degrees. Mix the panko or cornmeal in a plastic bag with the peppers and salt.

2 Drain the fillets; then shake them in the panko in the bag. Shake off any excess coating and fry them until golden brown on both sides, a total of about 5 minutes. Drain on paper towels and serve immediately with lemon wedges.

Per serving (based on 4): 402 calories; 19 g fat; 13 g saturated fat; 66 mg cholesterol; 25 g protein; 33 g carbohydrate; 7 g sugar; 4 g fiber; 643 mg sodium; 125 mg calcium

Adapted from "Fish" by Mark Bittman

SHRIMP WITH SOY, GARLIC, GINGER AND LEMON

Yield: 4 servings

- 12 ounces shrimp, shelled but with the tail left on if possible
- 1 1/2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon plus 3/4 teaspoon minced fresh ginger, divided
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/3 cup water
- 2 tablespoons medium-dry sherry
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons oil (not olive)
- 1/2 cup cubed red bell peppers
- 1/2 bunch watercress with bottom 1 inch of the stems cut off, optional
- Hot cooked rice or Asian noodles

1 In a medium bowl, combine the shrimp, soy sauce, 1 tablespoon of the ginger, lemon juice, 1 teaspoon of the garlic, pepper and sherry. Refrigerate for 1 hour. Drain shrimp, retaining the marinade.

2 Mix the water with the cornstarch and the reserved marinade, and stir well to dissolve the cornstarch. In a small saucepan, bring the mixture to a boil and cook, stirring constantly, for 1 minute. Set aside.

3 In a large skillet, heat the oil. Add the shrimp, the remaining 1 teaspoon of garlic and remaining 3/4 teaspoon of ginger. Stir fry over high heat for 30 seconds. Add the sweet red peppers and cook, stirring, for another 30 seconds. Add the sauce and bring to a boil, stirring frequently. Remove pan from heat and immediately add the watercress, if using. Serve at once over rice or Asian noodles.

Per serving (using 2 cups total cooked white rice): 297 calories; 8 g fat; 1 g saturated fat; 137mg cholesterol; 24 g protein; 32 g carbohydrate; 3 g sugar; no fiber; 481 mg sodium; 65 mg calcium

Recipe from "The Frog-Commissary Cookbook" by Steven Poses, Anne Clark and Becky Roller

Life & Style

Nik vs. the volcano: How Wallenda is prepping for new stunt

NEW YORK (AP)—Intense heat, poisonous gasses, molten lava—the conditions for Nik Wallenda's latest tightrope walk are downright hellish, and that's just the way he wants it.

Wallenda will traverse the Masaya Volcano in Nicaragua on Wednesday in a stunt that he says will go on, no matter the conditions.

"I'm walking over an active volcano, facing every challenge that Mother Nature can throw at me from the high winds in the area to the heavy gases to, of course, the heat from that volcano, as well as the fact that it is the longest and the highest walk that I've ever attempted," he said.

"Volcano Live with Nik Wallenda" will air as a live two-hour special on ABC beginning at 8 p.m. Eastern.

Wallenda, whose most recent tightrope walk involved crossing Times Square on a 1,300-foot (396-meter) cable, has long dreamed of crossing an active volcano. Masaya, a caldera with an active lava lake 1,800 feet (548 meters) below where Wallenda will cross, met all his criteria.

During an interview in January, Wallenda described the challenges -- or perks -- of crossing Masaya.

"Best is not what one would think. One would think best for a wire walker has to do with no winds, has to do with no gasses. For me, that all adds drama and excitement," Wallenda said. "I'm looking for that, but also the right distance. Again, this is the longest and highest I've ever done. That's one of the reasons why I really liked this particular volcano, as well as the fact that it has an active lava lake down below."

The conditions make it impossible to erect the tightrope in advance.

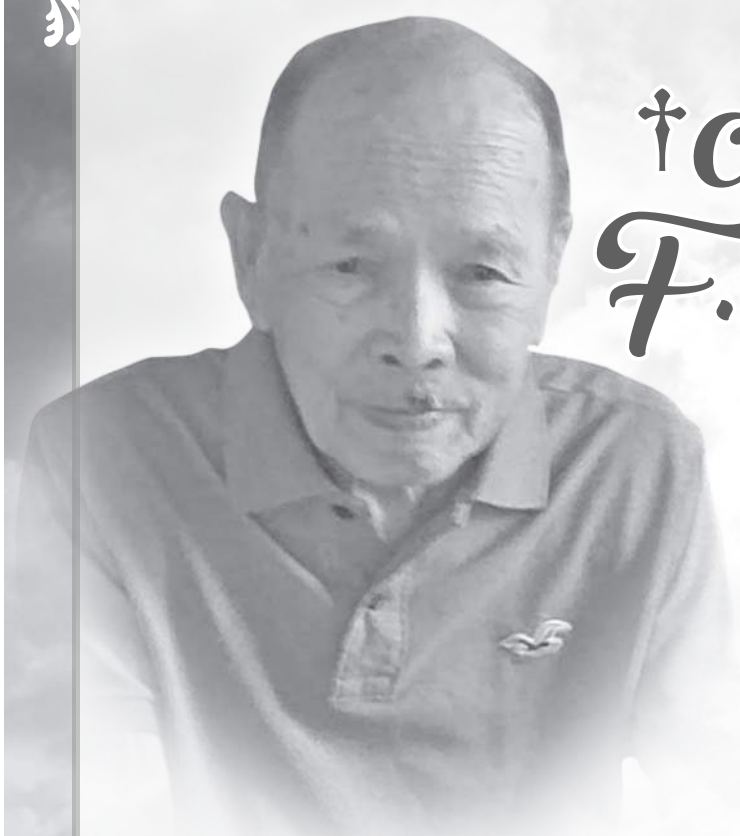
"The cables can't go up early because the sulfuric gasses in the air will actually eat through the cable to the point where it will actually crumble," Wallenda said. "We can't put it up in advance. It's got to be put up very short window prior to the actual walk."



In this June 18, 2013 file photo, high wire performer Nik Wallenda practices in Sarasota, Fla. Wallenda will traverse the Masaya Volcano in Nicaragua on Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

AP

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



†Antonio F. Tabora

Born on: June 24, 1935



The family of †Antonio is saddened to inform his friends and relatives that he has been called to be with the Lord on February 28, 2020.

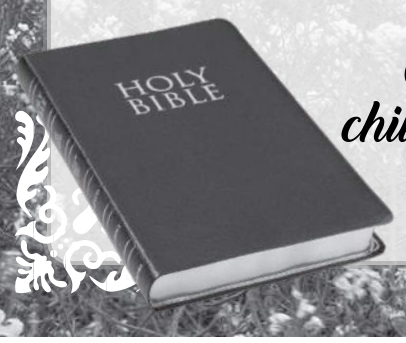
On March 6, 2020 at 7:30am, his body will be escorted from CHCC Morgue to San Antonio Parish Church.

Viewing starts at 8:00am followed immediately by Funeral Mass at 10:00am. His remains will then be transported to Borja Funeral Homes to prepare our dearly beloved †Antonio for cremation.

An appreciation breakfast will be served at San Antonio Parish, Social Hall immediately.

Your thoughts, presence and most importantly your prayers are sincerely appreciated as they helped us on this very difficult time.

Thank you, Salamat po!



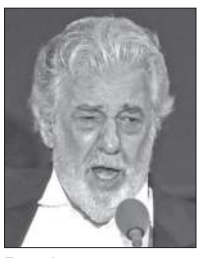


Candy Tabora (wife),
children, family and relatives.

Opera union board member alleges cover-up in Domingo scandal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A senior member of the main U.S. union that represents opera performers resigned Monday, accusing the leadership of a cover-up in its investigation into accusations of sexual harassment against superstar Plácido Domingo.

Samuel Schultz, a baritone and vice president of the American Guild of Musical Artists, had provided the full findings of the union's investigation to The Associated Press, which he said AGMA's leadership had planned to keep secret as part of an agreement with Domingo. Schultz said the deal involved the legendary tenor paying the union a $500,000 fine and issuing a negotiated public apology in exchange for the full details not being disclosed.



Domingo

The union has said that money would have covered the cost of its 4-month investigation, which involved hiring outside counsel, and funding sexual harassment training. But Schultz called it hush money that did a disservice to the women who stepped forward.

"This is a quid pro quo—silence in exchange for money," Schultz said in a resignation letter sent Monday to AGMA President Raymond Menard and National Executive Director Len Egert. "I found AGMA's willingness to bury the details of the investigative report deeply betraying of the women who were sexually harassed by Domingo," he wrote.

Schultz, who wrote that he was acting "as a sexual assault survivor myself," provided a copy of his letter to the AP.

In a statement to the AP, Egert denied any cover-up, saying the investigation's details were kept confidential to protect the identities of people who requested anonymity and that the union's leaders also felt the settlement could avoid formal disciplinary charges against Domingo that would require an internal hearing.

Recording Academy fires ousted CEO, citing investigations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Recording Academy on Monday fired Deborah Dugan, its former president who called into question the integrity of the Grammy Awards nominations process and said she was sexually harassed by a top lawyer for the organization, which she called a boys' club that coddled and favored powerful men.

The academy said the decision was reached after "two exhaustive, costly independent investigations" about Dugan and her allegations. It said the reviews found "consistent management deficiencies and failures," though no specifics were offered.

Dugan had been on administrative leave since mid-January, when she was ousted after a complaint of mistreatment from a longtime Recording Academy employee, which the academy said Monday was one of multiple complaints from people across the organization. Dugan had raised several issues about the way the organization ran and accused its top lawyers of acting inappropriately toward her during a business meeting, which she detailed in a discrimination complaint filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Dugan said Monday that the academy's investigations did not include interviews with her, or address her claims of conflict of interest and voting irregularities.

"While I am disappointed by this latest development, I am not surprised given the Academy's pattern of dealing with whistle blowers," She said in a statement. " So, instead of trying to reform the corrupt institution from within, I will continue to work to hold accountable those who continue to self-deal, taint the Grammy voting process and discriminate against women and people of color."


Dugan

Dugan's ouster played out days before the academy's most important night, the Grammy Awards, a ceremony that made no mention of her or her allegations of a rigged voting process for some of the ceremony's top awards.

The academy said it had engaged in some settlement discussions with Dugan but opted to fire her instead, and will begin the search for a new CEO.

"We could not reward her with a lucrative settlement and thereby set a precedent that behavior like hers has no consequence," the academy's executive committee wrote in a letter to members. "Our members and employees, and the entire music industry, deserve better than that."

Dugan's attorneys said in a statement that the academy's decision to fire her and immediately notify media outlets "further demonstrates that it will stop at nothing to protect and maintain a culture of misogyny, discrimination, sexual harassment, corruption and conflicts of interest."

Dugan's EEOC complaint alleged that Joel Katz, an influential music attorney and the academy's general counsel, tried to woo her romantically and attempted to kiss her against her wishes during a dinner last year that had been presented as a business meeting. Katz said he "categorically and emphatically denies her version of that evening."

Dugan said her ousting was also retaliation for calling out the culture of the academy, saying she learned as CEO that her predecessor, Neil Portnow, had left the post over a rape allegation, yet she was still expected to give him a lucrative consulting position. Portnow said Dugan's assertions were "false and outrageous" and that he had been "completely exonerated" in an investigation.

'Judge Judy' will end 25-year run, but star sticking around

NEW YORK (AP)—"Judge Judy" will be ending, but Judge Judy isn't going anywhere.


Sheindlin

Confused? Judy Sheindlin's announcement Monday that her popular syndicated courtroom show will end production in 2021 sets the stage for her return in a different format even as her old show may not really go anywhere.

The tough-talking former New York family court judge has ruled her television courtroom since 1996 and its popularity made her the highest-paid personality in TV. She announced on "Ellen" that next season will be her 25th and last making original episodes of "Judge Judy."

After that, the 77-year-old mediator will be making a new show called "Judy Justice" that will debut in fall 2021.

"If you're not tired, you're not supposed to stop," Sheindlin told Ellen DeGeneres.

CBS, meanwhile, has made a two-year deal with stations that currently carry "Judge Judy" to air reruns of the program. Based on 25 years of a regular production schedule, it's likely there are some 5,000 episodes of the program in CBS' library, said Bill Carroll, a program consultant and expert in the syndication market.

Currently, most markets air two half-hour episodes of "Judge Judy" back-to-back on weekdays, and the second one is usually a rerun from a past year. It's done so seamlessly that many viewers don't notice it's an old episode; in fact, ratings for the second half hour are often better, Carroll said.

It's a winner for CBS if the show continues to be successful without the production costs—particularly Sheindlin's salary—of new material, he said.

First ride featuring Mickey Mouse debuts at Disney World

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The Walt Disney Co. was built on the shoulders of Mickey Mouse, so it may come as a surprise that there never has been a theme park attraction based on the lovable rodent.

That's about to change with the debut of Mickey & Minnie's Runaway Railway ride on Wednesday at Disney's Hollywood Studios at Walt Disney World.

The ride gives visitors the impression that they are watching a cartoon featuring Mickey and Minnie come to life as the Disney characters look for the perfect place for a romantic picnic and then end up on a train ride on the "Runnamuck Railroad."

The ride features trackless vehicles, multiple dimensional sets and projections on multiple planes, as well as animatronic figures and theatrical effects.

"We've taken our whole grab bag of theatrical tricks and blended them together so seamlessly you won't be able to tell what's what," said Kevin Rafferty, executive creative director at Walt Disney Imagineering. "There is more happening in each and every scene than you could possibly have time to see in just one experience."

Public Enemy kicks out Flavor Flav after campaign dispute

NEW YORK (AP)—Public Enemy has abruptly fired founding member Flavor Flav following a public spat over a decision by members of the rap pioneers to perform at a Bernie Sanders campaign event.

Public Enemy "will be moving forward without Flavor Flav," the band said in a brief statement Sunday. "We thank him for his years of service and wish him well."

Flavor Flav responded on Twitter on Monday with incredulity, writing to band leader Chuck D: "You wanna destroy something we've built over 35 years OVER POLITICS?" He scolded the rap pioneer: "I'm very disappointed in you and your decisions right now."

The dispute kicked off when Flavor Flav and his attorney sent a cease-and-desist letter to Sanders' campaign on Friday, arguing that Sunday's concert and campaign rally in Los Angeles by Public Enemy Radio had used Flavor Flav's "unauthorized likeness, image, and trademarked clock."

"While Chuck is certainly free to express his political view as he sees fit—his voice alone does not speak for Public Enemy," the letter states. "There is no Public Enemy without Flavor Flav." In Monday tweets, he called it "misleading marketing" and said he did not want to endorse a candidate.

In the band's statement, the group said Public Enemy Radio—a Chuck D-led offshoot featuring DJ Lord, Jahi, and the S1Ws—would continue to perform and will release an album in April.

Chuck D over the weekend wrote on Twitter that his dispute with Flavor Flav stretched deep into the past and "my last straw was long ago."

Flavor Flav recently sued Chuck D, alleging he hasn't received a royalty check for their music, live shows or merchandise in several years.

Couple's trust issues multiply when old girlfriend reappears

DEAR ABBY: I dated a guy for 10 months. We constantly fought because of his lack of trust. He had been burned in previous relationships. He said, "Trust is earned, not given," which isn't my philosophy.

After a recent argument (about lack of trust), I told him this attitude is a deal-breaker, and he needed time to reflect on his issues. I talked to him several days a week during the process, and we weren't intimate during that time.

I decided to have dinner with him at his apartment last night to further discuss the situation, only to have an old girlfriend ring his doorbell, upset. It seems that during the last five weeks, he had started seeing her again and slept with her while attempting to make amends with me. When I asked about her, he told me he thought we were done, and he was trying to put a Band-Aid on his pain. What to do?

He has great qualities but is so jealous and suspicious. Will he ever improve, or will I always be trying to prove myself? I believe he cares for me, but his actions with the old girlfriend negate this. I cannot even begin to rationalize his thought process.

GETTING TIRED OF IT

DEAR GETTING TIRED: This guy is suspicious because HE isn't trustworthy. There's a saying attributed to historian, civil rights activist and author W.E.B. Du Bois: "A man does not look behind the door unless he has stood there himself." People are often jealous and controlling because they are insecure. Your boyfriend ran back to his old girlfriend because he was unable to be alone, even for a brief period. Be smart. Wake up and lose him. You can do better.

DEAR ABBY: My father was physically abusive to me when I was a child, and distant and emotionally abusive when I was a teenager. Because of it, I had low self-esteem and was extremely depressed for most of my life. I confronted him when I was an adult, and he tried to explain why he was that way, but never apologized.

He is now 93 and in a nursing home. He probably won't be alive much longer. I would like to get closure by telling him the extent to which his behavior damaged my life, but I know it would hurt him. Should I look for the closure I have needed all of my life, or keep it to myself to spare his feelings?

HURTING STILL IN COLORADO

DEAR HURTING: If you have things you need to get off your chest to your father, as painful as they may be, then do it. Explain calmly, in an even tone of voice, how important validation is to children as they develop, and how deeply his physical and emotional abuse has affected your life. I agree that he owes you an apology, but do NOT go there expecting one because he may be incapable of it.

DEAR ABBY: Today I was in a small neighborhood restaurant with a friend. I ordered a special burger. When the cook brought it to the table, my friend immediately pulled out her camera and snapped several shots. A stranger who had been sitting at the bar jumped off his stool and came over to our table with his camera. I'm not sure how many photos of my meal were taken before I was able to start eating. My friend was logging onto Facebook to post before I took my first bite. I was dumbfounded. What can be said to people who are this rude?

GET IT WHILE IT'S HOT

DEAR GET IT: What can be said? Plenty—starting with, "Knock it off!" or "I don't like that!" Talk about an invasion of privacy as well as personal space. I don't blame you for feeling invaded.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

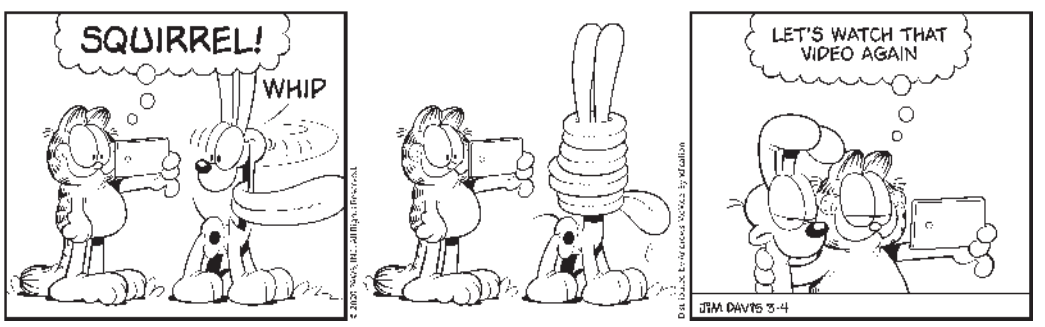
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



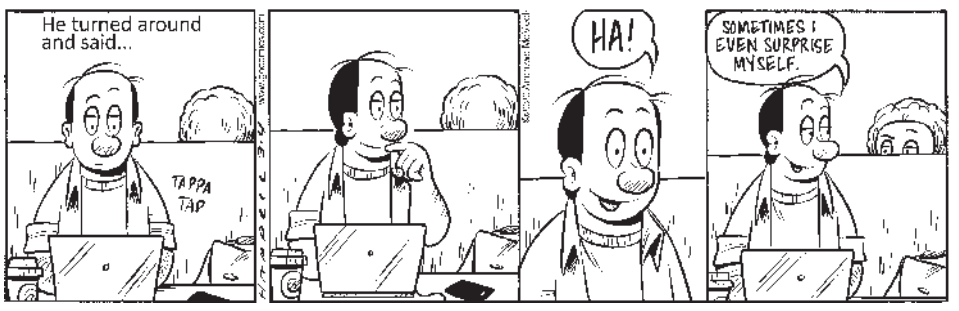
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

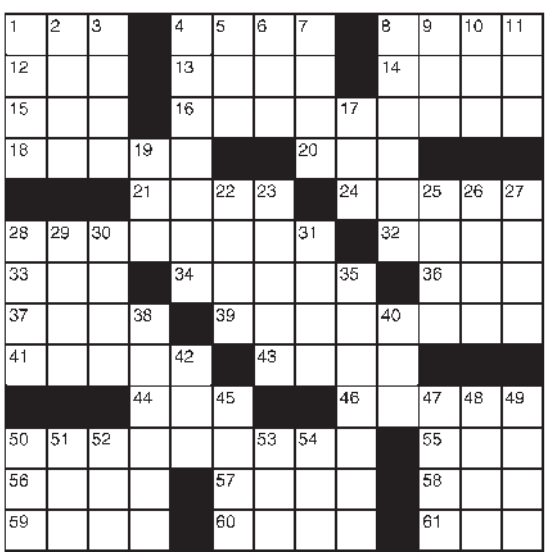
ACROSS
1 Workout venue
4 Mideast strip
8 Beer barrels
12 Old Olds
13 Spelling-out phrase
14 Sicilian volcano
15 Flight stat
16 Dressed very warmly
18 Bakery need
20 "Uh-huh"
21 Iranian money
24 Accepted fact
28 Got comfy on the sofa
32 Carry
33 Rock's Brian
34 Theater boxes
36 Suffix with senor
37 Long ride?
39 Made watertight
41 Ship's rear
43 Commotion
44 Aachen article
46 Sucker
50 Ensnarled
55 "Eureka!"
56 Crunchy cookie
57 Sommelier's suggestion
58 Hide-hair insert
59 Intend
60 Level
61 Turf

DOWN
1 Tennis great Steffi
2 Holler
3 Marquand sleuth
4 Archangel with a trumpet
5 Tempe sch.
6 California wine, for short
7 Tennis star Murray
8 "Consider this a donation"
9 Timetable abbr.
10 Wildebeest
11 Enervate
17 Race segment
19 Internet address
22 Big fusses
23 Olympic sleds
25 Nullify
26 Words to a backstabber
27 Tide variety
28 Animation frames
29 Squad
30 The Eternal City
31 Bog fuel
35 Indoor footwear
38 Salem's state
40 Epoch
42 Zero
45 Salamander
47 Catches some rays
48 "Scram!"
49 Lawn party site
50 Male cat
51 Verb for you
52 PBS funder
53 Cato's 502
54 French article

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 3-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chaz Bono, 51; Patricia Heaton, 62; Mykelti Williamson, 63; Catherine O'Hara, 66.

Happy Birthday: Make amends, improve your surroundings and pay attention to the ones you love. Channel your energy into revitalization, and put together a to-do list that will encourage a better life. Make physical, financial and emotional health your intent, and stabilizing and securing your life your goals. Commit to do the work and to reap the rewards. Romance is favored. Your numbers are 8, 11, 23, 26, 30, 44, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Emotions will lead to trouble. Think before you say something you might regret. Sometimes it's best to take a back seat and observe. Walk away from disputes, bullies and situations that can lead to changes you don't want. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A strategic approach to whatever you wish to conquer will help you succeed. Consider what you are willing to share, and that will determine what you get back. Be open to suggestions, and follow through with your plans. A partnership looks promising. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Your peers are likely to be friendly but not trustworthy. Take the time to make an effort to gather information directly from the source in order to avoid a costly mistake. Intelligence, common sense and charm are your best means of defense. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Rest will help you see situations differently. You'll understand what's required of you once you've had a chance to consider all sides of a job. A positive change is within reach. Bask in the spotlight. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't make a snap decision that is physically or professionally compromising. A change in your financial situation is apparent if you take an unnecessary risk. Pay off something or collect debts. You'll feel so much better once you resolve your money issues. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You will have plenty of choices. Don't use your energy helping others get ahead when you should be helping yourself. Make an attitude adjustment that puts your interests first and foremost. A personal pick-me-up is overdue. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't let anyone put words in your mouth. Keeping the peace doesn't mean you should give in or let someone take advantage of you. Avoid people who are disruptive or those who use manipulative tactics to control you. Positive change begins with you. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't waste time pondering what to do next or wondering if you should commit to something or someone. Step up, and let your instincts take over. Follow your heart, and do what feels right. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take a pragmatic approach when dealing with someone who has a tendency to overreact. Protect your reputation, assets and personal data. Don't count on anyone but yourself in order to avoid loss. Focus on individual improvement. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A change will lift your spirits and inspire you to expand and explore new possibilities. Making home improvements, traveling and nurturing meaningful relationships will bring the highest rewards and personal happiness. Added discipline will help you reach personal goals. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Sort out what you want to do next. Thinking things through, planning and preparing will be necessary if you don't want to end up heading in the wrong direction. Follow your heart, not what someone wants you to do. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Look at your situation, and m ake any adjustments necessary. Balancing home, work and play is essential if you want to achieve a healthy mindset. Romance will enhance your personal life. A promise will turn into reality. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative, compassionate and loyal. You are possessive and precise.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7	3		9				
1			3	4				
			6	5		2		
			1	7		4		
		9		8	6	1	7	
	1					9		
5						8		
7						6		
9	4	8	2			3		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	1	3	6	7	5	9	2	4
7	5	4	8	2	9	1	6	3
6	9	2	1	4	3	7	5	8
2	4	7	5	3	1	6	8	9
3	8	1	2	9	6	5	4	7
5	6	9	4	8	7	3	1	2
1	7	8	3	5	2	4	9	6
9	2	6	7	1	4	8	3	5
4	3	5	9	6	8	2	7	1

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

"FROZEN II" (FILM) Solution: 9 letters

T	I	D	U	N	A	L	E	U	Q	E	S	V	E	N
R	V	I	A	R	E	C	G	I	A	N	T	S	I	M
O	O	S	K	R	I	S	T	E	N	G	I	R	L	A
L	I	N	N	H	N	A	O	L	A	F	R	E	S	T
L	C	E	T	A	N	E	R	I	F	W	I	T	N	T
L	E	Y	H	N	V	D	G	O	O	B	P	C	O	I
E	M	Z	A	A	E	A	T	L	B	L	S	A	W	A
B	L	E	N	N	L	S	L	A	F	F	O	R	G	S
L	J	R	I	E	I	A	P	E	A	C	E	A	I	S
A	O	E	A	R	M	D	P	O	W	E	R	H	E	I
C	S	D	K	H	N	S	I	R	H	C	A	C	S	S
I	H	Y	S	A	S	L	E	O	D	A	N	R	O	T
S	G	R	R	E	D	N	A	M	A	L	A	S	T	O
U	A	G	N	A	R	R	E	F	I	N	N	E	J	H
M	D	R	A	E	N	U	R	E	E	D	N	I	E	R

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Agnarr, Anna, Bell, Characters, Chris, Disney, Earth, Elsa, Evan, Fire, Gale, Giants, Girl, Grand Pabbie, Groff, Hans, Idina, Iduna, Jennifer, Josh Gad, Kai, Kristen, Kristoff, Marshmallow, Mattias, Menzel, Mist, Musical, Mythic, Olaf, Peace, Power, Reindeer, Runeard, Ryder, Salamander, Sequel, Sisto, Snowgies, Spirits, Sven, Tornado, Troll, Voice

Yesterday's Answer: Lexie

Treasuries 14, 15, 17, 18 and 21 through 39 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Heat stun Bucks, hold Giannis to 13 points



AP

Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler, third left, is accidentally hit by Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo during the first half of an NBA game, Monday, March 2, 2020, in Miami.

MIAMI (AP)—The Miami Heat stand alone, the first team to beat the Milwaukee Bucks twice this season.

Jae Crowder and Jimmy Butler each scored 18 points, Goran Dragic added 15 and the Heat beat the Bucks 105-89 on Wednesday night—moving to 2-0 against the NBA's best team.

Bam Adebayo had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Heat, who improved to 39-22 and matched their win total from last season with 19 games remaining. Kendrick Nunn had 13 points and Kelly Olynyk added 11 for Miami.

"Collective effort," Crowder said. "All hands on deck."

It was a season-low in points for the Bucks, set for the second straight day after Milwaukee managed only 93 in a win Sunday at Charlotte. The difference was from the 3-point line: Miami was 18 for 37, Milwaukee was 7 for 34.

"Not saying we can hold great offensive teams like this regularly under 90 ... but we have it in us to do it more consistently," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Milwaukee has faced 21 of the 29 other NBA teams more than once this season. Most of those clubs have had minimal, or no, success: Chicago and Orlando went 0-4, Atlanta, Cleveland, New York and Charlotte are 0-3. The Heat clinched the season series, and Boston—which would have to sweep its last two matchups with the Bucks—is the only other Eastern Conference team with a chance to do that.

"Tough game," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "The physicality, the defensive activity from both teams was very good. Credit to Miami, they played very well on both ends, shot the ball well, they made tough shots. It wasn't our night."

Brook Lopez led the Bucks (52-9) with 21 points. Giannis Antetokounmpo matched a season-low with 13 points on 6 for 18 shooting, and grabbed 15 rebounds.

Knicks 125, Rockets 123

In New York, the small-ball Rockets had big problems against the Knicks.

The Knicks bullied them on the backboards and pummeled them in the paint, making an impressive first impression on their new team president.

Rookie guard RJ Barrett tied his season high with 27 points and the Knicks held on for a victory, snapping Houston's six-game winning streak.

"Everybody was locked in," Barrett said.

The Rockets, playing without a traditional center, couldn't overcome the Knicks' whopping 65-34 rebounding advantage, or New York's 64-36 edge in points in the paint.

Julius Randle added 16 points and 16 rebounds for the Knicks, who held on after building a 21-point lead in front of Leon Rose, the longtime player agent who was hired Monday as team president.

"We played to our strengths and advantages, which is obviously the paint," Randle said.

"We know they play small, so we should get a lot of second-chance opportunities on offensive boards if we miss shots."

Jazz 126, Cavaliers 113

In Cleveland, Bojan Bogdanovic scored 28 points, Rudy Gobert added 20 and the Utah Jazz began a four-game trip against Eastern Conference teams with a win over the short-handed Cavaliers, who dressed only nine players and used just seven.

Donovan Mitchell had 19 points and nine rebounds, and the Jazz made 20 3-pointers while staying in the fifth playoff spot out West.

Collin Sexton scored a career-high 32 points and Kevin Love scored 22 for Cleveland, which dropped to 3-4 under coach J.B. Bickerstaff.

Utah was flat for long stretches, and some of that may have had to do with Cleveland's poor record and depleted roster. The Jazz seemed in control while building an 18-point lead in the fourth, but the Cavs kept fighting and were still within 11 with 6 minutes left.

Grizzlies 127, Hawks 88

In Atlanta, Gorgui Dieng had 17 points and 10 rebounds, leading nine Memphis scorers in double figures, and the Grizzlies pulled away in the second half for a win over the cold-shooting Hawks.

Memphis, trying to protect its No. 8 spot in the Western Conference playoff field, has won two straight following five consecutive losses.

The Grizzlies missed their first 11 shots from the field against Atlanta but recovered to lead 24-23 at the end of the opening period. They led 52-49 at halftime and pulled away in the third period.

"We've got to come out from the jump, even if we aren't making shots," Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins said. "They got out of the slump there. And then we just kind of found a groove."

Trail Blazers 130, Magic 107

In Florida, CJ McCollum scored 41 points and Gary Trent Jr. added 24 to help the Portland Trail Blazers run away from the Orlando Magic.

Hassan Whiteside had 16 points and 13 rebounds and Trevor Ariza scored 11 as the Blazers ended a 3-game losing streak by outscoring Orlando 38-19 in the final period.

Nikola Vucevic led Orlando with 30 points and 11 rebounds. Terrence Ross scored 23 points, but the Magic struggled offensively in the final period, hitting just six of 21 shots. The 130 points tied a season-high for points allowed by the Magic.

Bulls 107, Mavericks 107

In Chicago, Coby White scored 19 points, Otto Porter Jr. added 18 in his return from a broken left foot and the Bulls hung on to beat the Dallas Mavericks when Luka Doncic's desperation heave bounced off the rim.

Denzel Valentine added a season-high 17 points and the Bulls won for just the second time in 12 games even though leading scorer Zach LaVine sat out with a strained left quadriceps.

"We have been there a lot with winning teams," Valentine said. "We've been right there. It actually feels good to come out here and beat a team like that."

The Bulls thought they were ready to make a jump in the Eastern Conference and contend for a playoff spot after winning only a combined 49 games the previous two seasons.

Pacers 116, Spurs 11

In San Antonio, Malcolm Brogdon scored 26 points, T.J. Warren added 23 and the Indiana Pacers rallied to beat the Spurs after blowing a 15-point lead.

Indiana won its fourth straight, moving into a fifth-place tie with Philadelphia in the Eastern Conference.

Patty Mills scored 24 points to lead San Antonio and Trey Lyles added 20. The Spurs, who have lost eight of 11, dropped four games behind the Memphis Grizzlies for eighth place in the West.

San Antonio trailed 84-69 with 4 1/2 minutes left in the third quarter before rallying. The Spurs went ahead 102-98 with 6:44 remaining in the game, fueled by a pair of 3-pointers each from Mills and Lonnie Walker IV and an emphatic slam by Walker.

NBA to players: Avoid high-fives as virus concern grows

MIAMI (AP)—The NBA has told players to avoid high-fiving fans and strangers and avoid taking any item for autographs, the leagues latest response in its ongoing monitoring of the coronavirus crisis that has spread to most corners of the planet.

The league, in a memo sent to teams on Sunday and obtained Monday by The Associated Press, offered 10 recommendations to players with hopes of decreasing risks of getting the virus—among them, not taking items such as pens, markers, balls and jerseys from autograph seekers.

The NBA also told teams that it is consulting with infectious disease experts, including the Centers for Disease Control and infectious disease researchers at Columbia University in New York.

"We are also in regular communication with each other, NBA teams including team physicians and athletic trainers, other professional sports leagues, and of course, many of you," the league wrote in its memo to teams, their physicians and athletic training staffs.

Some players are already heeding the advice.

"Corona," Bobby Portis of the New York Knicks said as he offered some fist-bump greetings on Monday night before his team faced the Houston Rockets.

Jimmy Butler of the Miami Heat said he wasn't necessarily worried or thinking about avoiding high-fives.

"I don't think about any of that," Butler said. "I'm still going to be who I am. We're still going to be who we are."

Portland guard CJ McCollum is taking the matter seriously, saying he is "officially taking a break from signing autographs until further notice."

"You just have to be careful," McCollum said Monday night in Orlando. "Obviously it's affecting people, especially people who are displaying weaker immune systems and people over 60. You've got to check yourself and wash your hands, try to reduce contact with outsiders and outside germs."

McCollum has tweeted or retweeted several virus-related posts in the last couple days.

"The coronavirus remains a situation with the potential to change rapidly—the NBA and the Players Association will continue to work with leading experts and team physicians to provide up-to-date information and recommended practices that should be followed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus," the league said in the memo.

Many of the tips offered by the NBA fell under common-sense level of best practices when it comes to illness prevention: avoiding contact with people who are sick, staying home when feeling ill, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Maddon sees Cubs, Price debuts for Dodgers

ARIZONA (AP)—Joe Maddon hugged Anthony Rizzo, shared an in-game microphone with Kris Bryant, slapped hands with the Cubs' mascot and drew a warm reception from the Chicago fans at Sloan Park.

As if he'd never been away at all.

The manager who guided the Cubs to an elusive World Series championship in 2016 and parted ways with the team after last season returned on Monday, now guiding the Los Angeles Angels.

The mini-reunion came during at a spring training exhibition, with a split-squad of Cubs topping the Angels 9-4.

"It's very comfortable," Maddon said before the game. "You talk about wonderful memories, it was five years, but it was a very eventful five years. There's nothing to lament, it was wonderful. It was life-altering for me and my family to be part of this organization."

The Angels and Cubs don't meet in the regular season, so the short trip from Tempe to Mesa provided Maddon a chance to meet old pals.

Maddon was embraced by new Cubs manager David Ross, who retired as a player after the Cubs beat Cleveland to end their 108-year World Series drought.

The Cubs averaged 94 wins per season during Maddon's tenure, and made the playoffs in the first four. Last year, after Maddon's contract was not extended following an early playoff exit, Chicago slumped to 84-78, missed the postseason and the Cubs front office moved on from Maddon.

Maddon ended up back with the organization where he spent most of his previous time in the game, including as a coach on the Angels' 2002 World Series winners.



AP
Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher David Price throws against the Cincinnati Reds during the first inning of a spring training baseball game Monday, March 2, 2020, in Goodyear, Ariz.

"Stuff happens along the way," Maddon said. "Eventually it's for the best that you do something else. It's good for you and for them. There's nothing adversarial. I just texted Theo (Epstein, Cubs president) and we'll try to get together."

"The method of the world today is everyone's looking for adversarial. It's not. We won together, it was a great moment," he said.

Maddon teamed up with Bryant and Rizzo during the game, all three of them wired together on microphones to talk at the same time during the ESPN telecast.

"Last year we went off the rails a little bit. But we don't win 95-plus games without a real good method in place and really good players. I don't take it personally. I like change. It's got to be for all the right reasons," Maddon said.

Maddon hasn't changed his unique methods in returning to the Angels' organization. Monday morning's guest speaker in Tempe was basketball Hall of Famer Charles Barkley, who addressed the team and hit a few golf shots in the outfield.

"He's great," Maddon said of the NBA great who lives in the Phoenix area. "It's energy and enthusiasm. If you can do something that adds to that, I'll take it. I think that's overlooked."

"Players love that stuff. We're going through the tedious, grinding schedule of spring training and anything you do to lighten up the day I think is good. I think you can feel it in the clubhouse."

Barkley, a Phillies fan from his days with the Philadelphia 76ers, has admired New Jersey native Mike Trout for a while, and was glad to get the chance to talk to the Angels star on Monday.

"I've only met him one time. I just happened to run into him on an elevator, and I was so excited to meet him, I was like, I didn't want to bother him. It was just quick," Barkley said.

"It was in LA, I told him it was an honor to meet him. Obviously being from Philadelphia, we knew a lot about him. I'm a fan, but I just said hello to him kind of quickly. I was kind of 'fanboying' on him a little bit."

One thing Maddon will miss about leaving the National League is the style of play -- and certainly don't count him among the supporters of the universal designated hitter.

"The National League game is a better game. I know we'll probably go to the DH. I think it's awful. I don't understand where it adds interest to the game, I think it subtracts from it," he said.

"Don't keep talking about offense, that's boring. There's other ways to score points. There's more to think about," he said. "If you want to teach young kids, teach them the National League game—it makes you think. I think it (the DH) should be dropped right now. You can make all the arguments you want."

Meanwhile, David Price struck out three of the four batters he retired in 1 1/3 innings of his spring debut with the Dodgers. Price, acquired with Mookie Betts from Boston in a recent trade, appeared for the first time since undergoing wrist surgery in September to help improve his circulation and is throwing pain-free. Betts doubled and Matt Beaty homered.

Cincinnati's Sonny Gray gave up a home run in 2 2/3 innings, walking two and giving up three hits. Trevor Bauer worked three innings, allowing two hits and striking out two. Freddy Galvis doubled and is hitting .500.

In other news, Hall of Fame third baseman Chipper Jones has joined the ESPN lineup.

The former Atlanta Braves star will work as a major league analyst, primarily on weeknight and holiday games. He'll debut on opening day when San Francisco plays at Dodger Stadium on March 26.

Dustin Johnson to skip Olympics

On the fence about the Olympics at the start of the year, Dustin Johnson decided he won't be going.

Johnson's manager said in a text message Monday that the FedEx Cup playoffs hold as much importance to Johnson as chasing a gold medal in Tokyo this summer.

"I feel certain he would choose otherwise if the timing were different, but feels he is making the best decision under the circumstances," said David Winkle of Hambric Sports Management.

Johnson's name was removed from the Olympic golf ranking Monday afternoon. At No. 5 in the world ranking, he currently would have been No. 3 among Americans behind Brooks Koepka and Justin Thomas. Countries are allowed a maximum of four players in golf provided they are among the top 15 in the world ranking.

Golfweek first reported Johnson's decision.

Johnson was the leading American for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro when he decided at the last minute to withdraw because of concerns over the Zika virus.

This was more about the FedEx Cup and the lucrative prize Johnson has yet to win. The top prize is now worth $15 million.

Asked about the Olympics at the beginning of the year, Johnson said he wasn't sure how his schedule would be in the summer with the Tokyo Games coming after the final major and before the FedEx Cup playoffs.

"Having had a few close calls in the playoffs, he really wants to win them before his time is done and feels that he wouldn't be giving himself the best opportunity to do so if he added a lengthy international trip," Winkle said.

Johnson plans to play five out of seven weeks through the British Open. He then would have a week off before heading to Japan for the Olympics. Now, he is contemplating the 3M Open in Minnesota after returning from the British, and then two weeks off before the FedEx Cup playoffs.

Johnson nearly won the FedEx Cup in 2016 until he lost the 54-hole lead and lost the FedEx Cup when Rory McIlroy won the Tour Championship and its then-$10 million prize. He has spent 91 weeks at No. 1 in the world, third only behind Tiger Woods and McIlroy among active players.

With just over three months before Olympic qualifying ends, the leading four Americans are Koepka, Thomas, Patrick Cantlay and Webb Simpson, following by Patrick Reed and Woods. There are still three majors, The Players Championship and a World Golf Championship—all offering big ranking points—before qualifying ends on June 21 after the U.S. Open.

Meanwhile, baseball's final qualifying event for the Tokyo Olympics has been postponed from April to June because of concerns over the virus outbreak that has infected nearly 89,000 people and caused more than 3,000 deaths, mostly in China.

The World Baseball Softball Conference announced Monday the qualification event scheduled for Taichung and Dou Liu in Taiwan from April 1-5 had been postponed to June 17-21 because of "player, personnel and spectator health and safety measures against the spread of the coronavirus."

Hundreds of new cases of the virus that causes the COVID-19 disease have been announced in recent days outside of China. There have been 40 cases and one death in Taiwan.

The Olympics are scheduled to open July 24, with baseball competition set to be played at Fukushima and Yokohama from July 29 to Aug. 8.

The second- and third-place teams from the Americas qualifying tournament in Arizona from March 22-26 will advance to the final qualifying tournament in Taiwan, joining a field that will include Australia, China, Netherlands and Taiwan.

Baseball was an Olympic event from 1992-08 and has been restored for the Tokyo Olympics.

Loving Hands escapes Star Water in OT

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Loving Hands earned its season debut win in the One Pacific Promotional Basketball League 2020 in a thrilling fashion after nosing out Star Water in overtime, 67-64, last Monday at the Civic Center Court.

Adi Tabora scored 6 points in the extension, including the dagger triple at the buzzer to crush Star Water's hopes of sending the game into the second overtime. Tabora finished in double figures with his 13 points, 9 of them came in the combined fourth and extra periods.

With the opposing teams playing only in their first game of the season in Pool A, both squads were sluggish on offense, as neither hit twin digits after the first 10 minutes of play. Star Water clung to a 9-8 lead after the first canto behind the deuce of Michael Cabanas.

Loving Hands and Star Water picked up its scoring a bit in the second period, but it was another close match as the first half ended in a deadlock, 26-all.

Tabora, who was scoreless in the first half, made Loving Hands' first two baskets in the third period, while Jun Fidelino and Jimboy Kintz also hit a couple of shots. Star Water, on the other hand, drew contributions from Elmer Esdrelon and Ron Gamboa, and the team remained in contention with Loving Hands hanging on to a 42-41 lead at the conclusion of the third canto.

In the fourth period, it was still a seesaw battle and the game was back to square one at the end of regulation with Loving Hands making three free throws for the tie and Esdrelon also delivering clutch baskets for Star Water.

Loving Hands went on to have the last say in the neck-and-neck tiff, thanks to Tabora's game winner.

Loving Hands 67—A. Tabora 13, Kintz 13, Fidelino 12, Factor 7, J. Tabora 6, Hernandez 4, Tengco 4, Javier 2, De Guzman 2, Torregoza 2.

Star Water 54—Esdrelon 23, Barbo 13, Cabanas 9, Gamboa 8, Marzan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-9, 26-26, 42-41, 58-58, 67-64 (OT).

TANHOLDINGS

From Page 24

match was courtesy of Bennetton Haro in the seventh minute.

In the other game in the division, Kanoa foiled Matansa's bid to enter the win column after rallying and forcing a draw.

Kanoa was once down at 5-2 after Justin Camacho drilled three straight goals for Matansa. Rigel Devey, Angelo De Belen, and Paul Lizama then found the back of the net to save Kanoa with the latter scoring the game-tying goal just three minutes before the match concluded.

Lizama also registered the first two goals of Kanoa, while Wataru Kadokura did the same for Matansa, which got all its goals in the opening 35 minutes of the duel.

BOYS U19
MP United 2, TanHoldings 2

The first game in the boys U19 division last Friday also ended in a standoff.

John Bucayo nailed the equalizer for MP United in the 82nd minute.

It was a tough result for TanHoldings, as it led by two at the break, 2-0. Mark Esalan put TanHoldings on the board in the 17th minute, while Kohtaro Goto made it a 2-0 advantage three minutes later.

TanHoldings managed to hang on to the driver's seat for a long time before Oliver Lee broke MP United's silence in the 66th minute and Bucayo knotted the score with eight minutes to go in the game.

NMI U15 6, Kanoa 2 0

The NMI Boys U15 National Team bagged its first win of the season after shutting down Kanoa 2.

Andrew Chung recorded two goals for NMI U15, while Andrew Sablan, Jerald Aquino, and Philip Megino contributed one apiece.

2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League

TEAM STANDINGS
(As of March 1, 2020)

CO-ED U13 DIVISION

CLUB	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
TanHoldings	3	0	0	15	2	13	9
MP United	1	0	1	5	4	1	3
Shirley's	1	0	1	5	7	-2	3
Matansa	0	1	1	7	9	-2	1
Kanoa	0	1	2	8	18	-10	1

BOYS U19 DIVISION

CLUB	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
TanHoldings	1	2	0	15	3	12	5
MP United	1	1	1	11	4	7	4
Kanoa 1	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
NMI U15	1	0	1	6	8	- 2	3
Kanoa2	0	0	2	0	18	-18	0

GILLETTE

From Page 24

Ltd., which is the distributor of Procter & Gamble's Gillette products in the region.

Kretzers and D&Q Saipan Ltd. sales manager (Sapan and the Pacific Islands) Marilyn Marron presented the $5,000 donation to Saipan Soccer School recently in support of the facility. The group manages the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

"We are deeply grateful to Gillette and D&Q for their continued support. This assistance will help us keep the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium operational and allow our athletes and other members of the community access to the facility," SSS director Merlie Tolentino said.

The multipurpose gymnasium, which sustained significant damage from two super typhoons in the last six years, has undergone improvement late last year. New rubberized flooring was installed, while the roofing was also fixed. The facility plays host to several sporting events, particularly those that feature youth athletes, while it once served as temporary shelter for families left homeless in 2018 when Saipan was hammered by Super Typhoon Yutu. The gymnasium is also used for summer camps and training sessions. ***(PR)***



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Players of CTSI and Ol'Aces played on the new flooring of the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium during the Christmas break holiday caging.

Pass-rusher Ngakoue no longer re-signing with Jaguars

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Firing unbending taskmaster Tom Coughlin was supposed to alleviate concerns some Jacksonville Jaguars had about playing for the oft-mismanaged franchise.

It clearly didn't work.

Standout defensive end Yannick Ngakoue said Monday he no longer wants to sign a long-term deal with the Jaguars, becoming the third Pro Bowler in less than a year to essentially give up on the team.

Linebacker Telvin Smith walked away from football in May, leaving about $10 million on the table, and star cornerback Jalen Ramsey forced a trade in October.

Ngakoue announced his desire to play elsewhere via social media, a move that could force Jacksonville to place the franchise tag on the 24-year-old disgruntled defender and trade him.

"The Jaguars are aware I no longer have interest in signing a long-term contract in Jacksonville," Ngakoue posted on Twitter and Instagram. "Duval, I love you and gave you guys everything I got. I'm thankful for the journey and look forward to continuing my career elsewhere."

It has to be a troubling trend for the Jaguars, who have one winning season in the past 12 years. Coughlin was considered the main problem the past three seasons, so much so that the NFL Players Association took a public swipe at the 73-year-old former coach and two-time Super Bowl winner with the New York Giants.

MCS

From Page 24

hand their squad a promising 25-13 halftime advantage.

Richardson, who also nailed Mt. Carmel's first two field goals off a layup and a triple, started for the Knights anew in the second half and added two more baskets to widen the gap further. He was relieved from the game midway in the second half with the Knights comfortably on top, 35-17.

Three other Mt. Carmel players chipped in at least two field goals apiece with Jeremiah Diaz, Merrick Toves, and Chioni Dela Cruz combining for 14 markers in the easy victory.

Jay Art Palmes and Calvin Babauta had 7 points each for KHS JV, which drew only one basket apiece from three other players.

Meanwhile, the league-leading MCS Varsity will close out the elimination round tomorrow, as it plays back-to-back games in the last day of the regular season.

MCS Varsity will first duel Saipan International School at 6pm on the south court before battling MCS 2.

Also set for the final day on the north court are the following pairings: MCS 2 against MHS 3; MHS Varsity versus KHS Varsity; and KHS JV opposite Saipan Southern High School. Da'Ok Academy is supposed to complete the schedule on the north court, but the former had already pulled out from the tournament and will be forfeiting its remaining match. Saipan Southern will have another game tomorrow, as it takes on Agape Christian School on the south court at 4:30pm, while KHS 3 and KHS Varsity collide in the second match at 5:15pm.

The Top 10 teams after the eliminations will advance to the playoffs, which will be played on March 13 and 14.

MCS Varsity 41—Richardson 19, Dela Cruz 6, Diaz 4, Toves 4, Naraja 3, King 3, Lajara 2.

KHS JV 23—Palmes 7, Babauta 7, Cruz 4, D. Pangelinan 3, Masga 2.

Scoring by halves: 25-13, 41-23.

STANDINGS
(Unofficial)

TEAMS	W	L
MCS Varsity	9	0
KHS JV	9	1
SSHS	7	2
Agape	7	2
SIS	6	3
MHS Varsity	6	4
KHS Varsity	4	5
MHS 3	3	7
KHS 3	2	8
MHS JV	2	7
MCS 2	1	7
Da'Ok	0	10



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School Varsity's Aven Evangelista, center, looks to pass the ball to his teammates, as he is up against Kagman High School Junior Varsity's Vincent Satur, right, and Dillan Cruz during their game in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



Heat stun Bucks, hold Giannis to 13 points

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Maddon sees Cubs, Price debuts for Dodgers

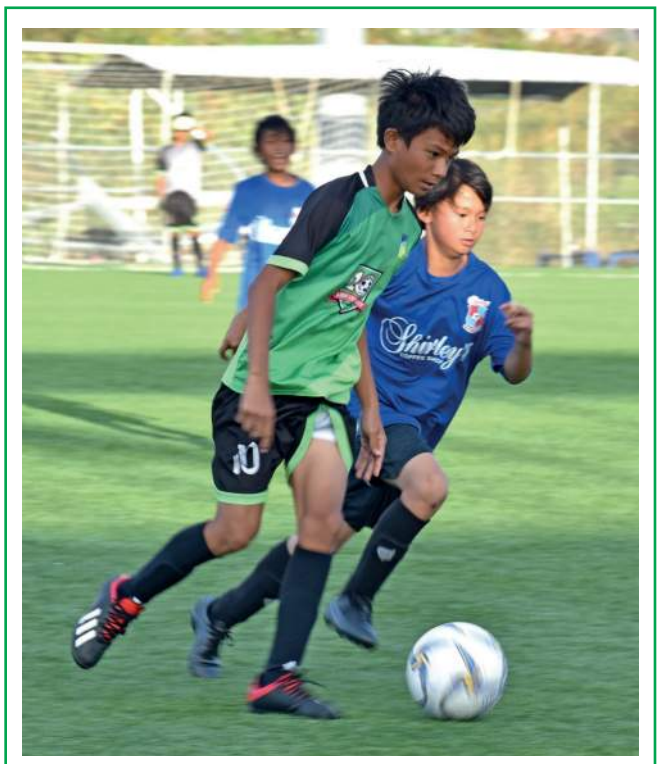
AGE 22



MCS Varsity rips KHS JV

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School Varsity stood out in the battle of undefeated teams in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League following a 41-23 rout of Kagman High School Junior Varsity yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
TanHoldings Football Club's Mark Ryan Costales, left, dribbles, while Shirley's Football Club's Zenn Jiro Tomokane plays defense on him during the first half of their co-ed U13 division game in the 2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

TanHoldings nears first round sweep

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club is one win away from sweeping the first round of the co-ed U13 division competition in the 2020 NMIFA Spring Youth League after easing past Shirley's Football Club, 4-1, last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Mark Ryan Costales scored a hat trick to lift TanHoldings to its third consecutive victory in the double round-robin contest. Christian Lucero posted the other goal for TanHoldings, which will go for the first round sweep next Saturday when it takes on Matansa.

Costales delivered his goals in succession, as he hit the board in the 12th, 19th, and 22nd minute, while Lucero's goal came in the 55th. Shirley's lone goal in the

See TANHOLDINGS on Page 23

The Knights improved their record to 9-0, grabbing the No. 1 spot in the team standings from the Ayuyus, who saw their nine-game winning streak ending as they could not keep up with MCS Varsity's steady offensive game.

Matthew Richardson starred in MCS Varsity's 18-point victory in the highly-anticipated match versus Kagman after firing 19 points. He scored 14 in the first half, including 10 of the Knights' last 14 markers to

See MCS on Page 23



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mt. Carmel School Varsity's Merrick Toves, left, takes the ball away from Kagman High School Junior Varsity's Darren Pangelinan during a rebound play in their game in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Gillette keeps commitment to sports facility

The Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium has been providing a venue for sporting events and other activities on Saipan for nearly a decade and will continue to open its doors to the community.

This is made possible through the help of Gillette and D&Q, which renewed their commitment to support the facility located at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

"D&Q and Gillette are pleased to be able to continue our support for the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. We strongly feel that supporting sports in our community is an important part of being a good corporate citizen and trust that our small contribution each year helps the many people that avail of the facility," said Max Kretzers, resident manager of D&Q Saipan Co.,

See GILLETTE on Page 23



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd. resident manager Max Kretzers, fourth left, and D&Q Saipan Ltd. sales manager Marilyn Marron, second left, present the ceremonial check to Saipan Soccer School director Merlie Tolentino, third left, and staff during the donation turnover ceremony recently at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.